



Sermon Questions

November 23rd, 2025 | Scripture: John 20:11-18 – Jesus Meets Us in Our Hopelessness

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Write down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures which highlight the movement from hopelessness to hope:

- Genesis 3:22-24 and Genesis 3:15
- Exodus 2:23-25 and Exodus 14:13-14
- Judges 21:25 and Isaiah 40:1-5
- Psalm 88 and Psalm 40:1-3
- Lamentations 3:17-20 and Lamentations 3:21-24
- Ephesians 2:1-3 and Ephesians 2:4-10

Pray: Lamentations 3 models what it looks like to cry out to God in the midst of our hopelessness. Take time to read and meditate on this lament this week. Name your pain and sorrow. Bring your complaints to God. Then ask him to sustain you and bring you help this week!

Serve: Stephen Ministers are people in our congregation—trained lay caregivers—who use their gifts to bring light to others in their times of difficulty and hopelessness. Are you experiencing a difficult season, know someone else in our congregation who is, or would like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister yourself? Reach out to Liz Edrington, our Assistant Director of Care to get connected:

- Liz Edrington
- ledrington@mcleanpres.org

Look Ahead: Next week we will begin our Advent series – Face to Face. The scripture passages will be Genesis 2:14-17, and 3:8-13 - where we will see how Jesus met Adam and Eve face to face in the garden.

Core Questions

1. Peter and John leave, but Mary stays and weeps. How does her decision to remain shape what happens next, and what does it reveal about her heart condition in this moment?
2. What do you notice about the shift from Jesus calling her ‘woman’ to calling her by name? What does this reveal about how Jesus moves people from hopelessness to hope?
3. In verses 17–18, Mary receives both a message and a mission. How do these verses mark her shift from grief to restored hope and renewed purpose?”

Inward Grace in Action

1. Where are you feeling stuck, burdened, or close to losing hope right now?
2. How does the hope of Jesus’ resurrection—His presence, His power, and His promise—speak into your situation right now?
3. Even if your circumstances don’t change, Jesus is with you through His Word and His people. What is one concrete next step you can take to lean into His presence this week?

Outward Grace in Action

1. All those who do not know Jesus sit in darkness. How can we share the hope of the gospel with those around us in word and deed?
2. Who is one person the Lord may be inviting you to share the hope of Jesus with this week?

For Families: Ideas of how to keep the conversation going at home, in the car, or around the dinner table:

1. A - Ask about the message: Ask your children about a time they felt sad, confused, or unsure what to do. (For younger kids, you can give examples, like feeling lost at a store, not understanding something hard, or missing someone.)
2. S – Share your thoughts: Share how, in those hard or scary moments, Jesus loves to meet us and help us. Remind them that even when life feels dark or confusing—just like being in a dark room—Jesus is with us and brings His light to help us see the way.”
3. K – Keep it going: God gives us many promises in His Word to help renew our hope in Him. This week, try memorizing Lamentations 3:22–24 together. You could read the passage each night before dinner and recite it together, so God’s promises stay in your hearts.