

# How Do We Share Hope in Jesus Christ?

## Introduction

The mission of UPC is to SHARE HOPE in Jesus Christ. We celebrate the hope into which God invites the world through his gracious sharing. In Jesus Christ, God shares our fallen nature, and in God's Spirit, we are made to share in God's life. We experience this sharing through Christ-centered faith, community, and service.

In church this week, we explore three meanings of the biblical word "share" or (in Greek) *koinonia*: participation, fellowship, and partnership. In each sense there lies a fresh invitation to join Jesus.

## Pray

Holy God, please give us understanding of your word as we seek to know and trust you more each day. Amen.

## Questions

**Read:** Matthew 3:13–17

1. Sharing includes being willing to be identified as one of the group. How did Jesus show he was willing to share in our lives in his baptism?
2. Think about other parts of everyday living that Jesus experienced as we do. Which of these shared experiences makes you feel more connected to Jesus?

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:4–9

3. We share hope in Jesus Christ trusting that we are alive in Jesus—we share his life. Consider these two statements: 1) You are faithful, and 2) God is faithful. In what ways would you expect lives relying on each of these two claims to be different?

Which one do you most often recognize in your day?

Which one do you think people outside UPC would think we are about?

**Read:** Acts 2:42

4. We share hope in Jesus Christ growing because we are alive together—we share his body. "Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). How are you encouraged by being together with other believers?

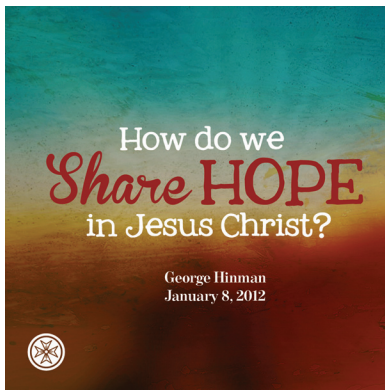
**Read:** Philippians 1:3–5

5. We share hope in Jesus Christ giving ourselves to live for the world—we share his ministry. "Mission is 'hope in action'" (Leslie Newbigin, *Open Secret*). Where has God placed you to serve in the world?

How will you depend on Him to enable you to do the work He has called you to?

## Pray

Lord, we are grateful for your invitation to share life with you. Strengthen and prepare us to share your hope with those around us. Amen.



## January 8

Matthew 3:13–17

1 Corinthians 1:9

Acts 2:42

Philippians 1:3–5

George Hinman