# Walking through treacle 6. Look up and see the glory!

## 2 Cor 3:7-4:6

# God wants you to have hope

## He designed you to function better with hope

### When you lose hope you lose your humanity, you lose the image of God in you, you lose your self-esteem, you lose your potential, you become a shell of who you really are

### Without hope you fall into depression, you lose any vision of the future, your outlook is bleak

## The right kind of hope inspires you to work, to invest time and energy, to overcome, to face the difficult path, to undergo severe trials

# God offers hope

## Hope of a fresh start, forgiveness and life beyond death

### This hope is offered in a gracious act followed by a covenant

#### I’ll rescue you and put you on the right path

## The OT gives us the history of the covenant with the Jews

### He rescues them in a gracious act from slavery in Egypt

### He leads them to Himself at Mount Sinai

### He gives them a path to follow and a way to live called the Law

### He leads them to the Promised Land

### He tells them of the promise of eternal life if they keep to the path

## But they don’t keep to it, they find they can’t keep to it

### God promises them a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

# God’s new covenant is here

## It came through Jesus the Messiah

### Believe in Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit and do life as God intended

## The veil has been removed!

### Paul goes back to Exodus 34:29-35 and Deuteronomy 29:2-4

### The veil that Moses used to cover his face

### The veil stopped them all seeing the glory of God transforming lives

### People would rather have the scriptures than the presence of God

## In Jesus Christ the veil has been taken away

### The Holy Spirit, who touched Moses on the mountain and inspired the prophets on occasions, was now living in the saints

### Everyone’s face can now shine!

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Glory

## What do you think Paul means when he talks about ‘glory’? (3:7-11)

### What was glorious?

## How do you think something so ‘glorious’ could bring death (7) and condemnation (9) and be transitory (7,11)

### How do you think it did that? (Try Rom 7:7-12)

### The ministry that brought death, engraved on stone

## Why do you think Moses’ glory faded? (13)

### To what extent is 14-18 a commentary on Deut 29:2-4 (spoken about 40 years after receiving the Law)?

## What has been your experience of beholding the glory of God?

### How is it different to a normal church service?

### What do these experiences do for your faith?

### Can you control when they occur?

### Should they be happening every day?

## How can we show the glory of God to the blind? (4:4)

### Does this section (4:1-6) say that all Christians have seen the glory of God?

#### To what extent is the glory of God the same as the glory of Christ (4:4)?

## To what extent is seeing the glory of God related to making Jesus our Lord (4:5)?

### To what extent is it related to an attitude of servanthood in His followers (4:5)?

# Hope

## What’s the difference between the Christian hope and the hope of winning the lottery?

## What hope do we have in Christ?

### What hope was Paul referring to in this passage (3:7-4:6)?

## How does this hope make us bold? (12)

# The fading face

## Why do you think so many Christians show a fading faith? (Try Mt 13:1-23)