

## Gospel Fluency: Study #4



# Hope

### Consider...

Last time we saw that through Jesus, God has done something to redeem us. Through his life, death and resurrection our relationships with God, one another, and even the world around us can be restored!

And yet, the Bible is clear that God's redemptive work is not yet completely finished (Romans 8:18-25). Although our relationship with God has been restored, we still sin. Although our relationships with one another are slowly improving, we still hurt and fail one another. Although as Christians we can do a better job of caring for this world, we still damage it and it still damages us!

However, The Bible promises that one day Jesus will return and when he does, things are going to change (Hebrews 9:28)! This means that Christians are people

of hope.

**Special Note:** In today's Bible passage there is a verse that has troubled many a Christian surfer and fisherman. Revelation 21:1 tells us that there won't be any *sea* in the new earth. This is symbolic language. For ancient Israelites the sea represented everything that was wrong with the natural world. It was seen as dangerous, untamed, and out of control.

### Read...

1. Read Revelation 21:1-8. How does this passage describe what our relationship with God will look like?
2. How does the passage describe what human relationships will look like? (**Hint: think about what *won't* be present in the new earth**)
3. How does the passage describe our relationship with the world? (**Hint: think about the 'sea imagery**)

### Summarise...

When Jesus returns, we will live perfect, eternal lives in which we share perfect relationships...

- with God
- with one another
- with the world around us