

Step 2 -- We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” (Romans 4:17–18, NLT)

Truth #1: Our God is the God of hope. The Apostle Paul here describes God as the one “who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.” The process of coming to believe that only God can bring us back to life and create a new way where there seems to be no way is the spiritual principle of Step 2. Over time, we come to realize that it is only God that can restore us to the right way of living.

Question #1: What obstacle is in the way and preventing you from believing that God can bring you back to life? How can God show you a way around your obstacle to belief? What can the group pray for to be made new in your life?

Truth #2: We hope because God will do what he promised. Paul says that Abraham hoped against hope. Abraham kept hoping, even when there was no reason to hope because he thought that he was too old to father a child. But God had made the promise, so Abraham kept on hoping, believing that God would keep his promise. About twenty years after God’s promise, Isaac was born, through whom Israel was born. Step 2 says that we have hope because God will do what he promised.

Question #2: What are you hoping for right now? Have you given up on hope, or are you hoping against hope right now? What can the group pray for you that will bring you hope today?

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