

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

May 31, 2026

“Losing Life”

#1 in the series *At A Loss*

Scripture Texts

1 Thessalonians 4:9-14 (CEB), John 11:32-35 (CEB),
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)



1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. The death of a beloved family member, a close friend, a neighbor, a work colleague, or a social acquaintance can challenge our faith and even cause us to lose hope that life can go on.
 - When has the death of someone challenged your sense of hope?
 - How did you learn to navigate that season of loss?
3. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12.**

The Thessalonian church was overwhelmed by the deaths of some of their members, and they reached out to Paul for comfort and guidance.

 - Why did Paul respond to their grief by first acknowledging their love for those who had passed?
 - In grief, how does focusing on love for the one you've lost help in navigating the sorrow?
4. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.**

The Thessalonians were concerned about whether those who had died would go to heaven since Jesus had not yet returned to earth.

 - Why is it important that Paul didn't minimize their concerns, but instead reaffirmed that, even in grief, they had hope?
 - How do you respond to the idea that *grief and hope are not opposites* - that hope can reside beside grief?
5. **Read John 11:32-35 and Romans 8:38-39.**
 - Why might we be surprised that Jesus wept even though he knew he would restore his friend to life?
 - How was the resurrection of Lazarus an example of grief and hope residing together and a precursor to Jesus' resurrection?
6. Knowing how to respond to those who are experiencing grief can be challenging - even uncomfortable.
 - Why do we tend to "rush" someone who is grieving to a place of comfort in ways that are not helpful for them?
 - When has someone known just the right response you needed in a moment or season of grief?
7. How can we pray for you?

