



Like No  
Other

**NATE SWEARINGEN**  
NEXT GEN PASTOR



# **FINDING HOPE IN EMPTY THINGS**

**Not God. God is different.  
On the first Easter Sunday,  
instead of promises full of  
emptiness, God gave us  
emptiness that is full of hope.**

# FINDING HOPE IN EMPTY THINGS

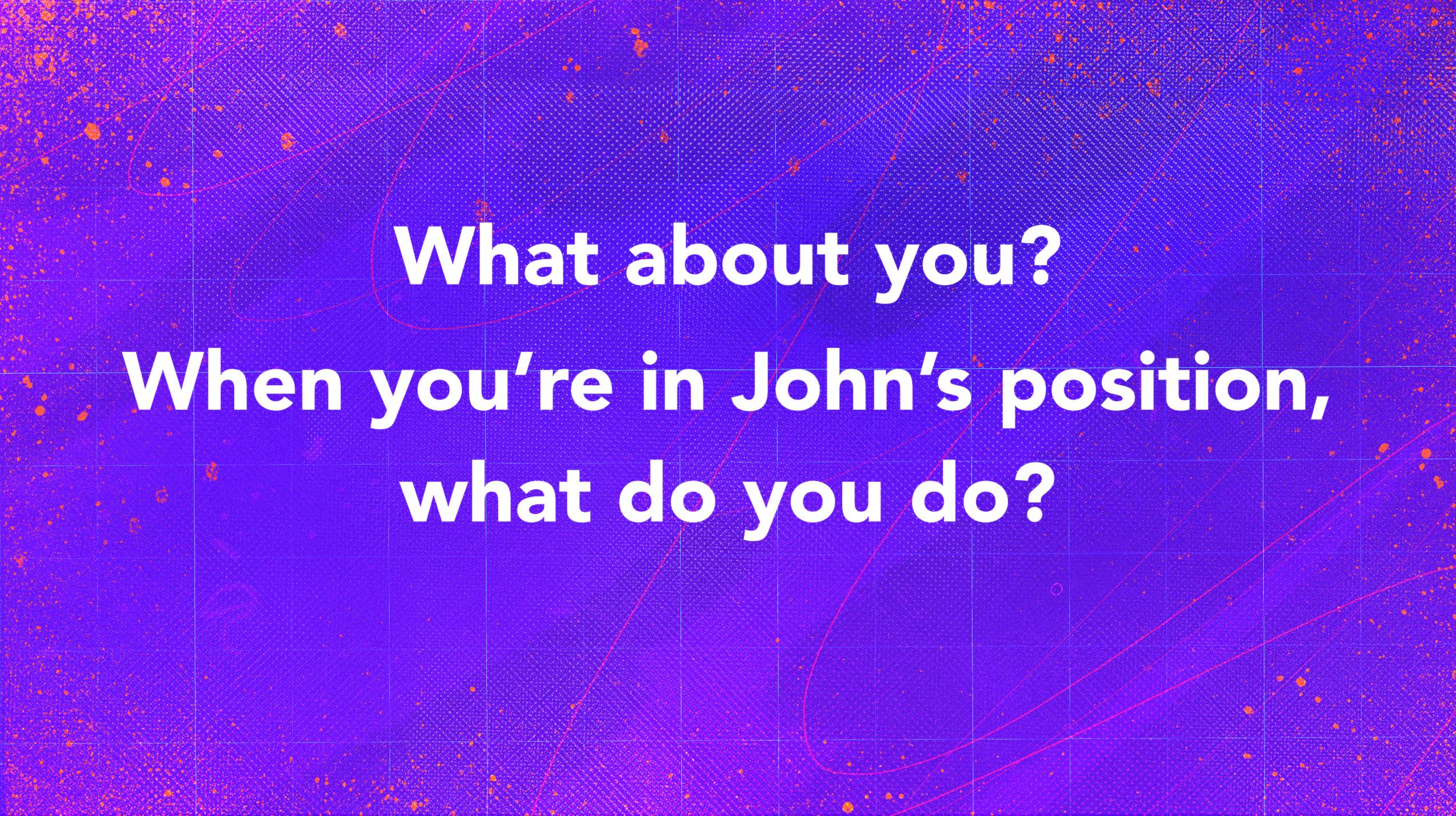
- THE EMPTY CROSS

The empty cross promises forgiveness.

HOPE like no other!

# FINDING HOPE IN EMPTY THINGS

- THE EMPTY CROSS
- THE EMPTY CLOTHES



**What about you?**

**When you're in John's position,  
what do you do?**

**When you're somewhere  
between yesterday's tragedy  
and tomorrow's triumph,  
what do you do?**

**Do you leave God—or do you  
linger near him?**

**John chose to linger.  
And because he lingered on  
Saturday, he was around to see  
the miracle on Sunday.**

And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

**JOHN**  
**20:5-8 ESV**

**8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.**

**JOHN  
20:5-8 ESV**

The empty cross promises faith.

HOPE like no other!

# FINDING HOPE IN EMPTY THINGS

- THE EMPTY CROSS
- THE EMPTY CLOTHES
- THE EMPTY CAVE

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead.

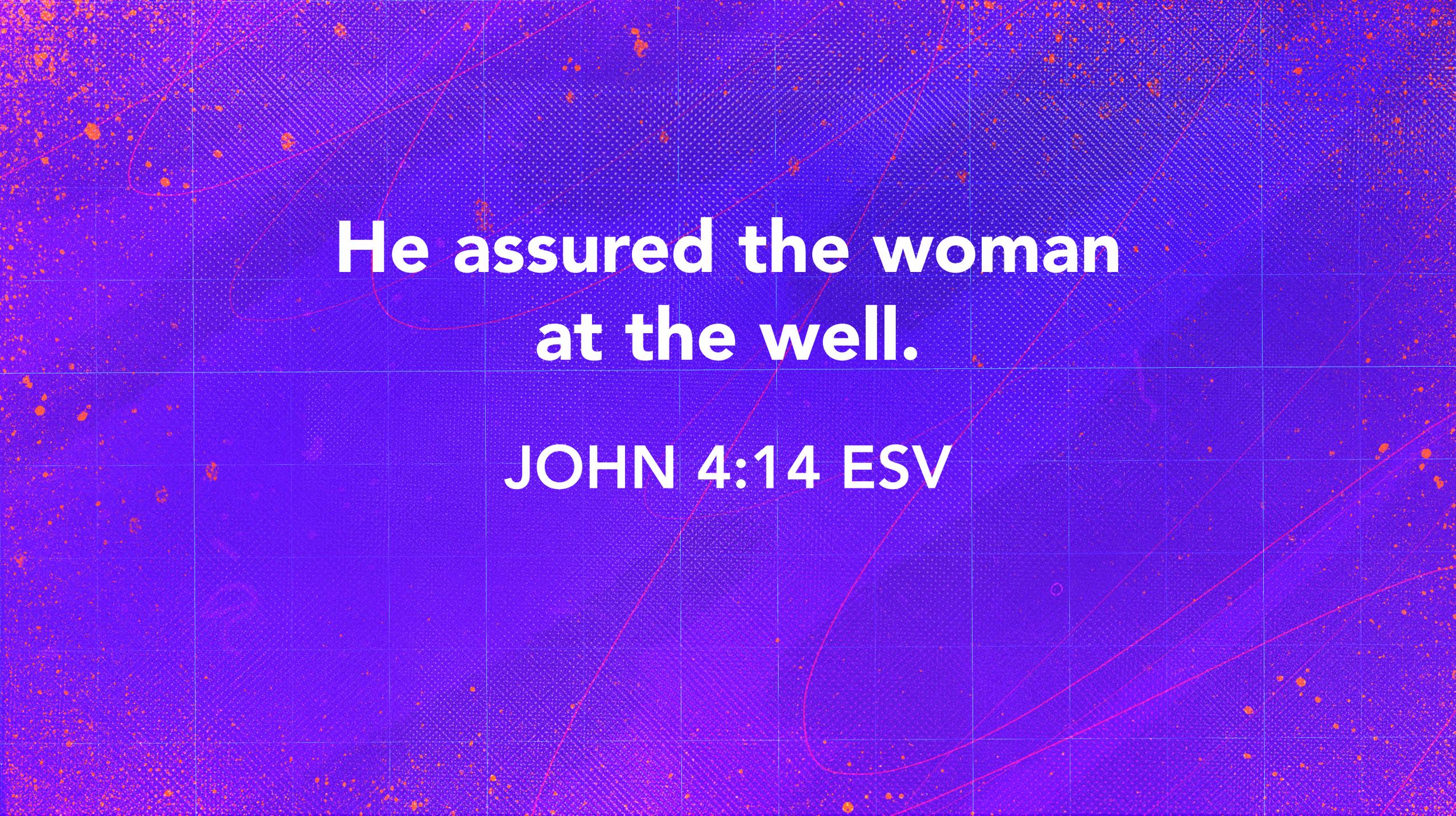
**MATTHEW**  
**28:5-7a ESV**

**The empty cave promises forever.**

**HOPE like no other!**

**For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and  
only Son, that whoever  
believes in him shall not  
perish but have eternal life.**

**JOHN  
3:16 NIV**



**He assured the woman  
at the well.**

**JOHN 4:14 ESV**

but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

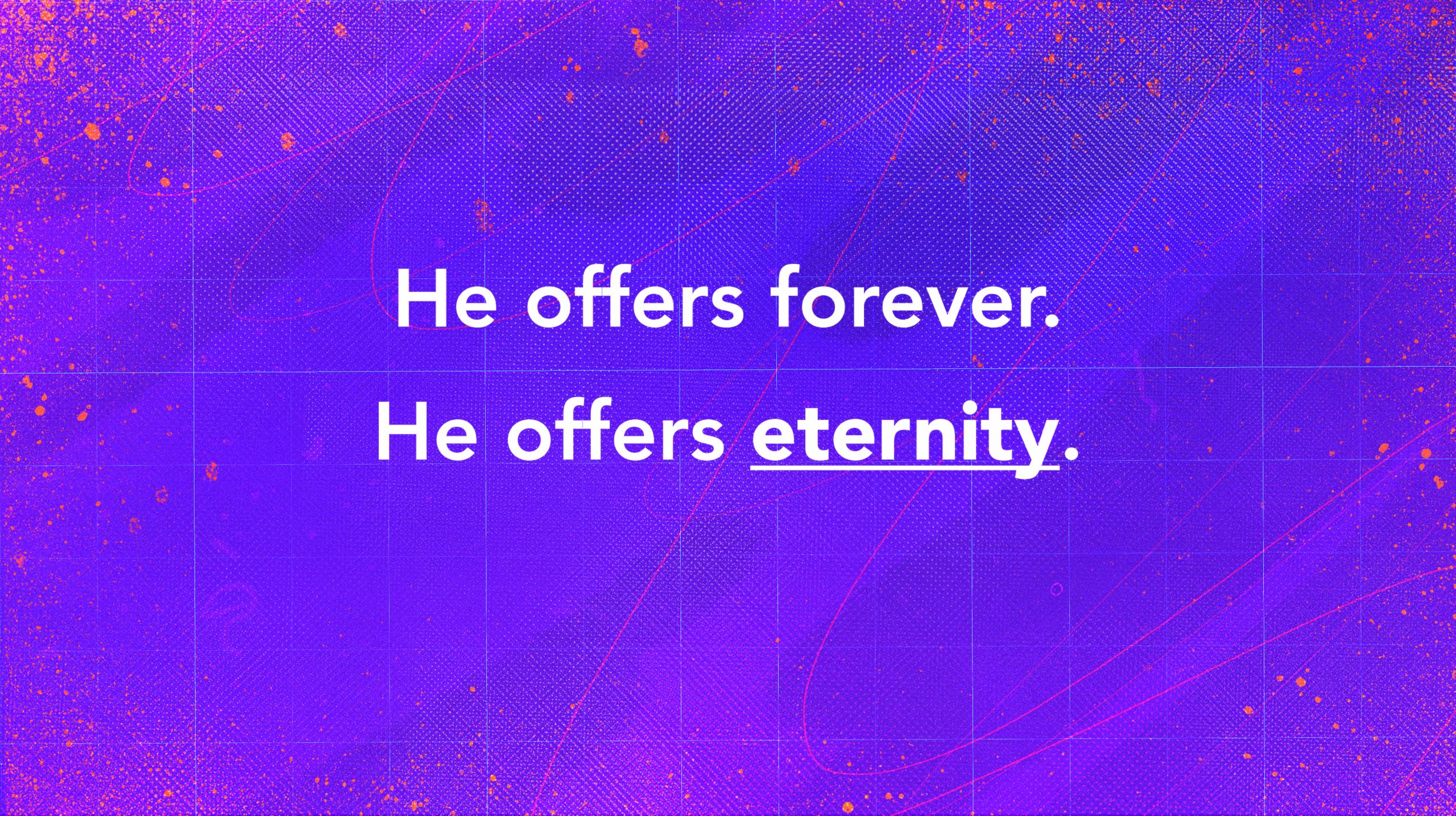
**JOHN**  
**4:14 ESV**

**He announced to the crowds.**

**JOHN 6:47 ESV**

**Truly, truly, I say to you,  
whoever believes has  
eternal life.**

**JOHN  
6:47 ESV**



**He offers forever.**

**He offers eternity.**

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will

**ROMANS**  
**6:6-14 ESV**

never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not

## ROMANS

### 6:6-14 ESV

present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

**ROMANS**  
**6:6-14 ESV**

For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

**EPHESIANS**  
**3:14-21 NIV**

18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according

**EPHESIANS**  
**3:14-21 NIV**

to his power that is at work  
within us, 21 to him be glory in  
the church and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations, for  
ever and ever! Amen.

**EPHESIANS**  
**3:14-21 NIV**



**FOREVER**



**HOPE like no other!**

# NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

1. What's empty in your life that needs HOPE?
2. When you're somewhere between yesterday's tragedy and tomorrow's triumph, what do you do? Do you leave God—or do you linger near him?
3. Do you need to experience that HOPE like no other today? Do you need to give your life to Jesus?



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