

These notes suggest ways you can prepare for the sermon that will be preached on October 17, 2021 at First Evan. Feel free to use them for class or small group discussion. Pick just one question or use them all.

1. Before explaining “One Hope,” Jim will review the previous sermons by reviewing six core principles and looking at some previous illustrations. Here are six summary statements:

- One Heart: Obey Jesus because you love Him. Love rocket-propels obedience.
- One Way: Trust Him for direction and your destiny. He provides perfect laser-guidance.
- One Truth: Align your words and deeds to His Word. Truth driven living yields leveraged results!
- One Life: Embrace Jesus as your sole source of light and life. Life powered by Jesus overcomes the darkness.
- One Mission: Devote your life to advancing the disciple-making mission Jesus began. We can bear fruit that grows trees that grow forests.
- One Peace: Expect hate but don’t allow it to disturb your peace. We can use tribulation as a transformation asset.

In what way have these previous lessons affected how you have responded in a certain situation? Have you learned something that has made a difference in how you live? Do tell!

2. Jim will read Malachi 3:14 which says: *“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the Lord of hosts?’”* Have you heard someone say something like this? Have you ever been in a situation where you questioned the value of serving God? What was happening and how did you get through it?

3. Here is a quote that speaks to the disciples state of mind at the last supper: “Jesus had said He was going away (7:34; 8:21; 12:8, 35; 13:33), that He would die (12:32–33), that one of the Twelve was a traitor (13:21), that Peter would disown Him three times (13:38), that Satan was at work against all of them (Luke 22:31–32), and that all the disciples would fall away (Matt. 26:31). The cumulative weight of these revelations must have greatly distressed them” – EA Blum. What do you think was going through the minds of the disciples? What clues do you get from John 14:1–6 about what was going through their minds?

4. In John 14:1–6, what does Jesus tell His disciples to do to deal with their seeming panic attack? What would it mean for you to do something similar when facing anxiety?
5. Compare the responses of the two different groups depicted in Revelation 6:16-17 and Jude 24. Why is one group so fearful of something that the second group is not? Also compare Ephesians 2:12 and Romans 5:2. How do these verses help us to understand the difference between these two groups?
6. In what way have “the rich” addressed in 1 Timothy 6:17 fallen into a “misplaced hope trap?” Where have they gone wrong? Why? What do they need to do to correct their problem? How would someone today fall into the same trap?
7. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, Paul provides more detail about the circumstances in which Jesus will fulfill what He has promised in John 14:1–6. Biblical scholars have varied views about how this event fits with the chronology of the end times. But there is no denying that this event will occur in the future and that all who know Jesus, whether alive or dead, will be there. We who know Jesus as Savior will be there! Subsequent to this event, “we shall always be with the Lord.” Read this passage and share how the sure prospect of your participation in this event affects how you are dealing with life

## STRENGTHENING YOUR CORE

One Heart One Way One Truth One Life One Mission One Peace **One Hope**