



HOPE Church Summer 2020 Life Groups – week 9 study guide

“I believe in You – You’re a God of Miracles”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=yoNth9wiCg4>

Sunday’s service on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/hopecclb/videos/vb.1661395687475869/636326110590427/?type=2&theater>

This week’s message focuses upon that fact that even in the midst of adverse circumstances and troubling emotions, we are called to rise above our fears and into intimate fellowship with God and service to His Church

Pastor Keith assured us that even despite all the difficulties we have faced these past 6 months, God is actively using His Church for good. As believers, we need to be mindful of our own emotions and take care to ensure that they are not driving our behaviors but rather that who we are and what we do must be grounded in God’s Word and His ways. Further, our faith – the very foundation of our Salvation in Christ – enables us to serve even despite our imperfections as each of us mature in our relationship with Jesus. Our pastor reminded us of our church’s mission statement: At Hope, we are a people who are called to passionately pursue God, purposefully build people, and fearlessly change the world. Our calling is Eternal and our mission on earth includes looking beyond our own needs. Keith stated, *“We are for all men and women, of all color, of all cultures. We are for the poor and underprivileged. We are for learning how to help every man or woman who walks through our door or is in our sphere of influence how to be fully who Christ calls them to be. We are here to serve our world. We will work hard at it, and not be perfect, but we will always be getting better at it in the power of Jesus Christ.”* We must always strive, even despite the challenges of adverse circumstances, to be a blessing to others. God’s power (strength) emerges through our own weakness and when we obey God it also leads us to discover our full stature as mature Christians. Being used by God calls us to *participate* in the mission of His Church and this will cause us to encounter aspects of our culture that are counter to God’s ways. Are we hearing His call? Are we ready to engage in the lives of others who are hurting?

Ephesians 4:11-14 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes

Keith discussed aspects of our role in fulfilling the mission statement of Hope Church. As you consider the questions below, be honest with yourself and strive to be as specific as possible with your answers.

1. How are you passionately pursuing God?
2. What are you doing to purposefully build people?
3. As a believer, what does fearlessly changing the world look like to you?
4. What do you perceive as aspects of our culture that are in conflict with our Christianity?
5. Is your own sense of imperfection interfering with trusting God to use you to serve His kingdom’s purposes?



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6. What are you willing to do, or change, or sacrifice in order to allow God to work through you to serve His purposes?
7. Take some time to meditate upon Hope Church's core values (see bottom of page). Do you feel like you understand how to live in accordance with them? Which one/s (if any) are you finding difficult to live out? Are you willing to seek guidance from a church leader regarding this?

Take some time (e.g. 15 minutes) to sit alone with God and pray for His power to be made manifest in your own weakness and to allow the Holy Spirit to work wonderfully (even Miraculously) in your life to enable you to fulfill His greater purposes.

Other relevant verses of Scripture to consider:

2nd Corinthians 12:9-10 – 9 But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Acts 1:8 – “...**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

Acts 2:22-24, 36-41 – 22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ... 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose

1st Peter 1:6-7: 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—*more precious than gold* that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (*emphasis added*)

- All Scripture taken from the ESV

Hope Church's Core Values

1. *God's word is the catalyst for life transformation*



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- 2. We are to build people with purpose.*
- 3. Full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer.*
- 4. Christ-like love develops unity in the body (and is lived out through service within the church and to the world. Life change happens best in a community)*
- 5. Every believer is a minister with a ministry.*
- 6. Excellence honors God and inspires people.*
- 7. We are called to restore the unchurched.*
- 8. We are called to fearlessly change our world for Christ.*