



Hope

**GOD HAS
MORE IN STORE**

SMALL GROUP
HOST GUIDE



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Hello Leader!

IF WE EVER NEEDED HOPE, WE NEED IT NOW!

Right now, with everything that is going on, you can sense there is hopelessness in our world. That is why this semester's topic is so important! Hope: God has more in store. I encourage you, if you know anyone that needs hope, invite them to your Small Group. It's going to be life-changing!

I pray during the next 6 weeks, there will be a greater revelation of Bible Hope in you!

Thank you for saying yes to leading a Small Group this semester. Your yes, is leading people to a God who is for them and helping them discover His purpose for their life.

God is for you!

Pastor David Blunt



SMALL GROUP REPORT EXAMPLE

- Gregory Smith
- Lashonda Martin
- Melinda Peterson
- Joe Brinks
- Miguel Hernandez
- Wanda Wright
- Jose Martinez
- Kenneth Peoples
- Jennifer Hershel

How did the small group go and do you have any questions?

-Joe messaged beforehand that he couldn't make it, but will be there next week!
-Melinda brought her friend Andy. It was his first time and he loved it! Plans to come back next week.
-Miguel started God is for you classes last week!
-We prayed for Lashonda's grandmother who has surgery on Friday.
-We shared with everyone about Eat Sweet Night!

Question: Our group shared in 2 weeks that majority can't make it on Tuesday. Could we reschedule our group to Friday the 16th and have it at Red Robin?

SAVE CANCEL



 To eliminate confusion when managing your roster, we suggest to keep members pending until they show up to your group.

SESSION 1

GETTING STARTED

What are you hoping to get out of this study, *Hope*?

FOCUS VERSE

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

ROMANS 15:13 | KJV

What does Bible Hope mean?

Bible Hope is a confident expectation that something good is in your future.

Benefits of Bible Hope:

1 | Happiness

5 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

PSALMS 146:5 | KJV

2 | Joy

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

ROMANS 5:1-2 | KJV

3 | Impacts Other People

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

I PETER 3:15 | KJV

4 | A Reward

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

HEBREWS 10:23 | KJV

5 | Stability

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

HEBREWS 6:18 | KJV

6 | God's Favor

11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

PSALMS 147:11 | KJV

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 What does it mean to have Bible Hope?

2 One of the benefits of Bible Hope is impacting others. How can you impact one person this week and be a witness?

3 What can you do this week to birth a greater level of expectation and a greater level of Bible Hope in your life?

DIVING DEEPER

1 Read the Focus Verse, Romans 15:13, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Groups meeting.

2 Share with someone outside of your Small Group one thing that you learned this week about the benefits of having Bible Hope.

3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

4 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

SESSION 2

GETTING STARTED

What is *Bible Hope*?

FOCUS VERSE

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

EPHESIANS 2:12 | KJV

**Without God there is no hope.
With God there is hope.**

We get Bible Hope by:

- 1 | Knowing God
- 2 | Knowing the Scriptures
- 3 | Knowing we have eternal life
- 4 | Knowing God's plan and purpose for our life

² I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and rewards me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]!

PSALM 57:2 | AMP

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 How can I know God every day?

2 What does it mean that God meets you at the level of your expectation?

3 How can I know God's plan for my life?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 During your daily Bible reading plan, look for the word HOPE and highlight it.
- 2 Purchase the One Year Bible and start reading the Bible daily.
- 3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.
- 4 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

SESSION 3

GETTING STARTED

What has been one takeaway from the past 2 sessions that has impacted your life?

☀️ FOCUS VERSE

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

ROMANS 15:4 | KJV

Bible Hope: Confident expectation that something good is in your future.

¹ Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; ² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

TITUS 1:1-2 | KJV

Knowing God can't lie or disappoint me should fill me with hope!

⁷ That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

TITUS 3:7 | KJV

Don't settle for less than God's very best!

¹⁸ And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore, He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!

ISAIAH 30:18 | AMP

Are you looking for God's best?

When you look for God's very best, God will meet you at that level of expectation.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 What is one thing you took away from Isaiah 30:18?

2 What is one thing you have Bible hope for?

3 How can I hold to a promise of God?

DIVING DEEPER

1 Meditate on Isaiah 30:18 this week.

2 Write this phrase down and read it every day, "Bible Hope: Confident expectation that something good is in my future."

3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

4 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

SESSION 4

GETTING STARTED

How has Isaiah 30:18 impacted your life this week?

FOCUS VERSE

¹¹ My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart. ¹² They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness. ¹³ If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness. ¹⁴ I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister. ¹⁵ And where is now my hope? As for my hope, who shall see it? ¹⁶ They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.

JOB 17:11-16 | KJV

For our **hope** to not be stolen, we need to be selective of the following:

- 1 | Negative talk
- 2 | Small thinking people
- 3 | People who are always talking about the past
- 4 | What we are watching and listening to

God is about to do something good in you!
Put your hope on God not your circumstances.

⁷ Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.
JEREMIAH 17:7 | KJV

**When you know God's promises,
you will place your hope in God!**

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 Job had lost hope. Read Job 17: 11-16 and evaluate how Job got to that point.

2 Our message is "God is for You". How does that phrase bring you hope?

3 Hope can be stolen by negative talk, small thinking, people who are always talking about the past, and what we watch and listen to. What area(s) do you need to be more selective in in your life?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Write down 3 promises of God and meditate on them this week.
- 2 Talk to someone about what you learned during today's session.
- 3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.
- 4 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

SESSION 5

GETTING STARTED

How much progress have you made with changing those things that have stolen your hope?

Bible Hope will never disappoint you.

FOCUS VERSE

³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

ROMANS 9:33 | KJV

¹⁸ Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him [who revere and worship Him with awe], who wait for Him and hope in His mercy and loving-kindness.

PSALM 33:18 | AMP

God's looking for people who are expecting big! You serve a Big God!

²⁰ Our inner selves wait [earnestly] for the Lord; He is our Help and our Shield. ²¹ For in Him does our heart rejoice, because we have trusted (relied on and been confident) in His holy name.

²² Let Your mercy and loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, in proportion to our waiting and hoping for You.

PSALM 33:20-22 | AMP

God meets you at the level of your expectations.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 What are you expecting in 2024?

2 One of the benefits of Bible Hope is 'Impacting Others'.
How can you impact one person this week and be a witness?

3 How has Bible hope changed you so far?

DIVING DEEPER

1 List all that you are expecting in 2024 from God!

2 Share with someone the things you are learning during our Small Group sessions.

3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

4 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

SESSION 6

GETTING STARTED

What was something that you changed in the past six weeks that has built your hope?

FOCUS VERSE

⁵ Thus says the Lord: Cursed [with great evil] is the strong man who trusts in and relies on frail man, making weak [human] flesh his arm, and whose mind and heart turn aside from the Lord. ⁶ For he shall be like a shrub or a person naked and destitute in the desert; and he shall not see any good come, but shall dwell in the parched places in the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ [Most] blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, and relies on the Lord, and whose hope and confidence the Lord is. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters that spreads out its roots by the river; and it shall not see and fear when heat comes; but its leaf shall be green. It shall not be anxious and full of care in the year of drought, nor shall it cease yielding fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:5-8 | AMP

Hope is an anchor for your emotions.

⁸ But we belong to the day; therefore, let us be sober and put on the breastplate (corslet) of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 | AMP

What we are thinking, we are feeling.

If we are thinking wrong thoughts, we are feeling wrong.

Faith needs Hope; Hope needs Faith.

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

HEBREWS 11:1 | KJV

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 How can we stabilize our thought life?

2 How do hope and faith work together?

DIVING DEEPER

1 When reading through the One Year Bible, continue to mark every time you see the word HOPE!

2 Invite a friend to Easter at Church on the Rock!

IDEAS TO HELP PEOPLE GROW

- Invite them to sit with you in a Sunday Service.
- Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.
- Share how God is for you classes can help them grow and join a team.
- Invite them to check out the COTR Backstage podcast (backstage.cotr.org).
- Invite them to be water baptized (encourage your Small Group to be there).
- Share your spiritual habits; how you find time regularly to pray, worship, and read God's Word. Encourage them to make their own time with God.
- Invite them to come to special events at COTR.
- Tell them about our COTR Website, COTR App, and One Year Bible reading plan.
 - Watch past messages
 - Give
 - Stay connected
- If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.
 - Ask God to forgive you of your sins (Romans 6:23, Romans 3:10, Titus 3:5-7)
 - Believe Jesus is God's Son and died for humanity (1 John 4:15, John 1:1,14, Romans 5:8)
 - Confess Jesus is Lord of your life (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9)
 - Declare that you are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)
- **Example Prayer:**
"Heavenly Father, I repent. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He died for me and He rose again. Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you now as my Lord and my Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Take my life and make a difference. Amen."

TIPS / TOOLS

- **When is childcare available?**
We have childcare available on campus on Saturday afternoons at 2pm and Sunday mornings during our 11am service.
- **Where can I host my Small Group?**
You can host online, at church, and off site. Some of the most common meeting places are homes, restaurants, parks, coffee shops, and office buildings.
- **What are things we avoid in Small Groups?**
 - Self-promotion
 - Take offerings
 - Unapproved materials or speakers
 - Controversial topics and politics
- **How to prepare for your group?**
 - Arrive early
 - Creating the right environment
 - Test and have video ready
 - Welcome everyone
 - Warm up the group with an ice breaker (Tell me about your week)
 - Discuss this week's questions
 - Ask for prayer requests
 - Pray
 - Encourage them to grow (look at ideas to help people grow)
- **What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?**
It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next Small Group meeting. Do some personal research and call your Coach to get advice.
- **Questions to ask yourself when your group attendance is inconsistent:**
 - Does the meeting day/time work for everybody?
 - Are you doing everything you can as a leader to help people engage outside the group?
 - Are you texting them?
 - Have you connected with them on a personal level? (Anniversary, birthdays, trips)
 - Have you asked members for feedback?
- **How do I get my group serving?**
Encourage your group to get plugged into the Dream Team, by leading the way, talking about it, and inviting them to start by attending God is for you classes.
- **What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?**
If you encounter a difficult situation within your Small Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer and encouragement. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your Coach. Also, you and/or the group member can call the church office to the Small Groups Department at 636-294-7841 if needed.
- **Need a tip we didn't cover?**
Contact your Coach, they are there to serve you.

SMALL GROUP HOST EXPECTATIONS

General Expectations

- Complete God is for you classes
- Complete Background Check.
- Fill out Small Group online form (day, time, location).
- Attend and have your picture taken at the Small Group Training.
- Connect with your coach.
My coach's name:
My coach's contact info:
- Be open and honest with your group.
- Love your group well.
 - Pray for them
 - Lead them in discussion
 - Be full of grace
 - Invite members to attend every week
- Recruit members.
- Fill out your weekly report after each group meeting.
- Plan a party for the group's final meeting.
- Prioritize Sunday mornings (worship one, serve one).
- Contact those who sign up, introduce yourself, and share with them what to expect.
- Follow 70/30 Rule (70% of the group should talk / 30% of leadership should talk).
- Keep discussion positive (avoid politics, divisive issues, and negative talk).
- Respect boundaries (men minister to men and ladies minister to ladies).
- Serve at Small Group Rally by connecting with people and inviting them to sign up at cotr.org/groups for a Small Group.
- Stay up to date and connected to the culture by listening to the COTR Backstage podcast (backstage.cotr.org).

Zoom Expectations

- Make sure to have a computer or laptop (iPad or tablet will not work).
- Select a separate day with your coach or co-leader to test Zoom and Pastor's video.
- If you have trouble with your internet while playing the video from the website, use the special link to download the videos onto your computer.
- Arrive on Zoom 15 minutes before starting time.
- Make sure you have emailed and texted each person in your group the Zoom link.
- If your group is meeting over 40 minutes, we recommend you purchase a Zoom subscription (but not required).
- Make sure to keep your camera on and facing you so your group can see you the entire time.
- Lead your group in a room that has good lighting where your group can see you.
- Encourage them if possible to put their camera on so you can see each other.

Onsite (at Church) Expectations

- Come early to prepare your room.
- Make sure lights are on in the room and everywhere your group will be (halls and areas near bathrooms).
- Leave the room as you found it (If you need to move chairs or tables, take a picture so you can put it back in the right spot).
- Take the trash out after your group finishes.
- Leave things better than you found them.
- Stay on time with your group (keep in mind that there could be a meeting right before or after your group).
- If something feels or looks wrong, please make a staff member aware immediately.
- Do not allow children to attend your group. Please utilize childcare (on Saturdays and Sundays).
- If an incident happens, please inform COTR staff member present and write up an incident report and also please contact your Small Group Coach immediately after your group.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.

Offsite Expectations

- Must have enough parking at the site for the people to attend.
- Make sure there's no object near the activity that can cause harm to anyone or cause any damage.
- Keep your pets contained and away from people to avoid bites and/or allergic reactions.
- The site must look like our church culture. House must be clean, no obscene pictures, or improper music.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.
- Provide a private room for one person to change clothes (if needed for activity).
- Do not allow children to attend unless you have childcare staff member and approval from church leadership.
- If an incident happens, please write up an incident report and contact your Small Group Coach after your group.