



THE HOMES OF HOPE STORY

STUDY GUIDE



THE HOMES OF HOPE STORY

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Session 1:

Engaging a Broken World | It Matters to This One

PRE-READING: Introduction & Chapters 1-2

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: Matthew 25:34-40

“The Sheep and the Goats”

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don’t feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Introduction

1. How has God challenged you to act on something in the past? What is something he is currently calling you to? What determines a person’s value in the kingdom of God? Who is made in the image of God? How can you develop greater compassion for others?

Chapter 1

1. Why do you do what you do? Have you ever been hesitant to act on a problem because it was too big and it’d be nearly impossible to help everyone? If so, what was that problem? What little thing could you do to help? What difference can you make?

PRAYER JOURNALING

Journaling is a wonderful way to talk to God. We invite you to use the following pages during your prayer time as you read through The Homes of Hope Story with your group.

Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 2:

God Will Make a Way | Servant Leadership | An Offering to Jesus

PRE-READING: Chapters 3-5

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: Matthew 20:25-28

“A Mother’s Request”

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Read aloud: Matthew 23:11-12

“A Warning Against Hypocrisy”

The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don’t feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Chapter 3

1. Dean said, “Every problem in the world is a problem of relationships.” What does that mean? Do you believe it to be true? Why or why not?
2. How do you serve God? What is your motivation for serving God? Is it to please people or please God?
3. What does it mean to “(die) to your own ideas, imaginations and desires” when listening to God’s voice? How do you hear God’s voice? How can we make God known? What is the “two-handed approach” that the author talks about? What does that look like in your life?

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 3:

Small Beginnings | The Giving Formula | Five Benefits of a Home

PRE-READING: Chapters 6-8

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: Acts 20:35

"Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders"

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Read aloud: John 14:1-3

"Jesus Comforts His Disciples"

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don't feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Chapter 6

1. Have you ever had a Scripture passage speak to you like Numbers 34 did for the author? If so, what was it? What did it say to you? How do you know when God is speaking to you? What does that look or sound like?
2. When you are in need, is your first instinct to go to God in prayer? Why or why not? Have you ever had a prayer answered in a miraculous way like what happened with the car for the Lamberts?
3. When you are on the path that God is leading you on, what is that experience like? What happens? What tends to be a part of that journey?
4. Have you ever felt like you said "yes" to too many things? Where does that attitude come from? Why do we often take on too much work? What do long hours of work do to us? How can we help that?

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 4:

Pruning | Fruit That Remains | Matters of Life and Death

PRE-READING: Chapters 9-11

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: John 15:1-2

"The Vine and the Branches"

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Read aloud: Galatians 6:9

"Doing Good to All"

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Read aloud: Luke 12:31

"Do Not Worry"

But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Read aloud: James 1:22

"Listening and Doing"

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don't feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Chapter 9

1. Have you ever felt like a failure in something you were doing? What did God teach you through that experience? Do you have someone like Pastor John in your life? Who is that person you can go to for advice and wisdom who will speak truthfully to you even when it hurts? Have you had that happen before? What do we need to receive that sort of feedback?

2. Where in your life are you a leader? Who are you leading? How is that going? What is your leadership philosophy? What role do relationships play in that? Have you ever struggled to lead and started making excuses like Sean did? What responsibility does a leader have? What does owning your failures do? How does God work in those situations?
3. What is pruning? What does that mean in the context of faith? How does God prune us? Have you ever experienced this in the past? How does that help give us clear vision? What does pruning allow us to do? How does it help us bear more fruit? Where is the fruit in your life?

Chapter 10

1. What does it mean to seek first his kingdom? What is the promise in that passage? How does that apply to us being obedient to God's call on our lives to serve one another in love?
2. Where are our treasures? What does God's word tell us? What does it look like to be obedient to that? (James 1:22) What can you do this week to serve those around you?

Chapter 11

1. What does it mean to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves? Who are those people? What needs to be said for them?
2. The question, "What did they make you believe in order to get a house?" was asked on page 87. What was the answer? Why is that significant? What do some people assume about how and why Christians serve others? What are our motivations for serving others? How does serving others show them that God loves them?
3. What does it mean to possess a servant heart? How does that help us move away from our own agenda? What kinds of poverty exist in our world? What types of poverty are in the area where you live? How can you help meet the needs of the poor where you live?
4. What does serving do for us? How does it give us a new perspective? Have you ever had your perspective changed by an experience serving others? Explain how that happened.

CLOSING PRAYER

When your conversation is finished, take some time to close your group meeting in prayer. Give everyone a few minutes to share a prayer request. Then, have someone in your group close the group in prayer. If you want, have someone open the prayer and another person close.

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 5:

VIPs | Inheritance in the Land | An Idol No More

PRE-READING: Chapters 12-14

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: Psalm 16:6

"A miktam of David"

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places ...

Read aloud: Jonah 2:8

*"Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them."*

Read aloud: Psalm 16:6

"Everlasting Salvation for Zion"

*The LORD will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don't feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Chapter 12

1. What is dignity? What does dignity do for a person? How can we help provide dignity to those in need?
2. What does it mean to show favoritism toward someone? Why is that a bad thing? Read James 2:1-13. Do you feel like they were showing favoritism toward the business groups? In what ways have you seen favoritism played out in a negative way? How can we, the church, make sure we aren't showing favoritism toward anyone?
3. Why is it important to surround yourself with trusted, faithful people who can speak honestly into your life? What does that do for your personal faith journey? Who are those people? When was the last time you had someone

Speak into your life like that that resulted in a positive change in your life? Was that information easy to hear?

4. How does serving alongside others help build relationships? How can it help to resolve tensions and conflict? Is there someone in your life that you're struggling with? How can you serve that person?

Chapter 13

1. What does Psalm 16:6 mean to you? What are the boundary lines?
2. Why is it important not to get fixated on any one solution when encountering a problem? What does that do to our vision? How does that block us out from what God might be showing us?
3. What did it mean when Dean said the YWAM leaders didn't have the right theology of faith? Why did that matter? Do you believe God is your provider? How does that play out in your life? What did Joshua and the Israelites have to do to get the inheritance God had for them? What does that mean for you and your life?
4. When did the people of Israel see miracles? Have you ever experienced a miracle? What was your life situation like at that time? How were you positioned to receive it? Does God want to bless you? Do you believe that God always wants what is best for you? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever heard God speak to you? If so, what happened? What did he say? How were you obedient to God in that? What does God want from our giving? Who owns the things we have? How does that free us up to give? Why does God want us to give? What do we get out of it? What do others get?

Chapter 14

1. What does it mean for something to become an idol? How can good things become an idol? What has a tendency to become an idol in your life? How can you put God first in that area of your life?
2. Do you record your prayers? Have you ever had one answered that you forgot about, like what happened to Andrea? What are you praying for right now? Are you open to God answering it in a different way than you think?
3. How does giving transform us? How have you been transformed by giving to others? What sort of perspective does that give us? Where have you seen deserts transformed into gardens?

CLOSING PRAYER

When your conversation is finished, take some time to close your group meeting in prayer. Give everyone a few minutes to share a prayer request. Then, have someone in your group close the group in prayer. If you want, have someone open the prayer and another person close.

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Dear God,

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I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 6:

The Perfect Storm | God's Generosity | Communities of Hope | Epilogue

PRE-READING: Chapters 15-17 & Epilogue

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation and request that he reveal his truth to you

BIBLE READING:

Read aloud: Mark 4:35-41

"Jesus Calms the Storm"

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Read aloud: James 2:14-26

"Faith and Deeds"

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the

scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read through and discuss the questions below with your group. Don't feel a need to get through all the questions. Instead, have group members share thoughts on whichever ones, and let the Spirit guide your conversation.

Chapter 15

1. What did the perfect storm provide Homes of Hope? How did God use that to open new doors of opportunity? When faced with challenging situations, how can we respond so that we see God's new opportunities? Read Romans 8:28. Have you ever experienced God working in unlikely circumstances? How did he work for the good in a situation that seemed bad?
2. How does the author see business? How do you see the purpose of business? How can your work be used for the kingdom of God? What is the purpose of your work?
3. How does God feel about us giving his resources to those in need? Have you discovered your true purpose in life? If so, what is it? If not, how can you go about discovering it in an intentional way?

Chapter 16

1. What is the significance of the three core principles they taught the children in addition to school subjects? What do those things do for people? How can we teach others to love themselves, love others and love God?
2. Do you believe that the best answers in life are always rooted in relationships? Why or why not? What answers are you looking for right now? How are relationships at the core of that problem?
3. Have you ever experienced poverty before? What does experiencing something do in us that's different than reading about it? Do you ever think about the poor being lazy? How does that impact how we serve those in need? How does that impact how we view people who are poor? What does God say about people who are poor?
4. Have you ever felt the same way Josefina did when she said, "I always knew there was a God, but until now I never knew he cared about me"? Have you ever met someone who thought that? What's the truth about how much God cares for us? How can we let more people know about how much God cares about them?

5. What sort of long-lasting affects does serving someone in need have on their life? What might God be doing in people that we don't even realize?

Chapter 17

1. What is God doing in your life to transform hearts for God? How do works relate to a person's faith? Do works save us? What actually saves us? Why do we do good works?
2. How does the way a person lives and loves inform others about Jesus and the Gospel? How is your life "preaching the Gospel"?
3. How are we as a church called to reach those "seven spheres of society"? How can we build trust in those areas by serving, genuinely loving people and sharing the good news of Jesus?
4. What are some new innovations the church can use to reach more people for Jesus? What things are we currently using? What are some we aren't using that we could be?

Epilogue

1. What stood out to you most from this book? What did you learn? What have you been inspired to do to help those in need?
2. How can you incorporate more servant leadership in the areas of your life where you lead others? Where is God calling you next? How can you be obedient to that call?
3. How can you live out the "Go, Serve, Transform" motto in your life? Where are you "going"? Where are you "serving"? Where are you "transforming"?

CLOSING PRAYER

When your conversation is finished, take some time to close your group meeting in prayer. Give everyone a few minutes to share a prayer request. Then, have someone in your group close the group in prayer. If you want, have someone open the prayer and another person close.

NOTES:

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.



lutheranchurchofhope.org