

STEVE ROBINSON

**HOPE**  
  
**AGAIN**

**GOOD NEWS**  
FOR A BROKEN WORLD

DAILY GUIDE

*Hope Again: Good News for a Broken World*

Copyright © 2021 by Steve Robinson. All rights reserved.

Created and published under license to Church of the King, Incorporated d.b.a. COTK Publishing. Printed and manufactured in the United States of America.

Church of the King® is a registered service mark owned by Church of the King, Incorporated. COTK Publishing<sup>SM</sup> is a service mark owned by Church of the King, Incorporated. Any use of any of the service marks of Church of the King, Incorporated without the prior written approval of Church of the King, Incorporated is prohibited.

Any copying, duplication, reproduction, republication, transmission, broadcasting, public display, distribution, dissemination, or storage in any retrieval system of this devotional, in whole or in part, by any means, method, or medium, is strictly prohibited apart from the prior, written consent of COTK Publishing, except as next provided.

A natural person who has acquired this devotional only for personal use in accordance with the intended purposes of this devotional is permitted to electronically copy, store, and/or display it in, on, or thorough mobile devices, tablets, computers, and/or laptops owned by such person, and/or social media, electronic, and/or e-mail accounts controlled by such person, provided that all of the following conditions are continually met, including that: (a) such activities are conducted solely for purposes of the spiritual growth or Biblical knowledge of such person, or of such person and a reasonable number of personal friends and/or family members of such person; (b) without limitation to the foregoing, such activities are not conducted for any purpose that is commercial or for monetary gain, or disparaging or contrary to the best interests of the publisher or author (according to the reasonable discretion of the publisher or author); (c) any portions of this devotional that third parties are permitted to view electronically are portions also containing personal notes, observations, and reflections of an end user of this devotional; do not constitute substantial portions of the original content of this devotional alone without such personal notes, observations, and reflections; and are accompanied by or associated with appropriate communication to such third parties of the name of the publisher or author of this devotional; (d) such activities are not intended to, and do not in fact circumvent or significantly undermine any third-party's need or desire to purchase this devotional for himself from the publisher or author; and (e) such activities do not involve any kind of modification to or misrepresentation of the original content or wording of this devotional as it was originally published and distributed. This limited license may be revoked or modified at any time according to the sole discretion of the publisher or author.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-64219-017-5. Print edition.

Submit reprint and other licensing requests to COTK Publishing, P.O. Box 2306, Mandeville, Louisiana, 70470, or to [licensing@churchoftheking.com](mailto:licensing@churchoftheking.com).

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of  
Christ, for it is the power of God to  
salvation for everyone who believes...

**- THE APOSTLE PAUL, ROMANS 1:16**

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR JOURNEY	7
USING YOUR GUIDE	9
OUTLINE FOR EACH SESSION	11

## SESSIONS

SESSION ONE: THE GOSPEL DEFINED	12
SESSION TWO: THE NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS	44
SESSION THREE: THE GREAT EXCHANGE	74
SESSION FOUR: NEWNESS OF LIFE	108
SESSION FIVE: FREEDOM FROM THE LAW	140
SESSION SIX: THE OVERCOMING LIFE	170

## APPENDICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	198
SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES	200
PRAYER OF SALVATION	202
MEMORY VERSES	203
SMALL GROUP HOST ORIENTATION	204
SMALL GROUP ROSTER	207

# WELCOME

What you hold in your hands is much more than a book. It is a guide for moving past anxiety and even hopelessness. As you engage with this guide, you will embark on a life-changing journey that brings hope in the midst of our broken world. In this study, we look at the greatest news we could ever receive — the good news of the gospel! No matter the “bad news” surrounding us, and the failures we’ve experienced, we can live an overcoming life of hope and supernatural peace. In Christ, we can always *Hope Again!*

Let me encourage you in a few things: Engage with this guide to gain life-giving tools for living an overcoming life. Join a small group and study this curriculum alongside others in community. Give your best to this series. Remember, what you sow is directly related to what you reap. So, make it a priority. Be a part of all six sessions in this series. Each day, take time to dive into this guide and let God speak to you through the devotionals.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to this series. Let me encourage you, do not underestimate the power of attending church on the weekend, reading your daily devotionals, and attending a small group. This is a great opportunity to plug in like never before over the next six weeks. Let’s move forward together, grow closer to Jesus, rise above hopelessness, and live an overcoming life!

Let’s journey together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Robinson



# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR JOURNEY

*Each week you will be challenged to put into practice what you learn. These challenges help you take the concepts you learn deeper into your life. Commit to the following to get the most out of your experience:*

## **COMMIT TO CHRIST**

Committing your life to Christ is a vital step on your journey to living a life where you can *Hope Again*. Settle in your heart now to give Him your very best. Trust Him to lead you on this journey. Commit now to live the abundant life Jesus died to provide for you.

## **ATTEND EACH SMALL GROUP MEETING**

It is important for us to consistently gather over these six sessions, not only to learn the concepts, but discuss them with one another. Your group benefits from your presence, and your input is important. Commit to one another to consistently attend the group.

## **ATTEND ALL WEEKEND SERVICES**

The weekend services complement the theme of this small group study and the daily readings. They will help you reinforce all you are learning. Commit to attending all weekend services, and even try to sit with your small group during weekend services when possible.

## **ENGAGE IN THE DAILY READINGS**

The daily devotional readings take the concepts you learn deeper into your life over this six-week journey. Read and engage with the daily readings prior to your next small group meeting.





# USING YOUR GUIDE

*Tips To Help You Have A Great Small Group Experience!*

1. Enjoy building relationships and community with the people in your small group.
2. Pray before each session...for everyone in your group, for your time together, and for wisdom and insights.
3. Notice in the Table of Contents there are two sections: **Sessions** and **Appendices**. Familiarize yourself with the **Appendices**. Many of them will be referenced in the sessions themselves.
4. Read the **Outline of Each Session** on the next pages to understand how the sessions flow.

## **FOR SMALL GROUP HOSTS:**

If you are hosting or co-hosting a small group, the section entitled **Small Group Host Orientation** will give you valuable tips that will encourage you and help you avoid many common obstacles to effective small group leadership.

## **SMALL GROUP RESOURCES**

Additional small group resources are available in the back of this devotional to help both small group hosts and participants. Please take some time to review these resources.



# OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

*Each small group session for the Hope Again study includes the following sections. Read through to gain a clear idea of how this study is structured:*

## **GETTING STARTED**

Each small group begins with group members sharing what they learned in this *Hope Again* daily guide.

## **WATCH THE LESSON**

Enjoy the video lesson with your small group each week. Follow along with the outline in your guide and fill in the blanks. The small group outline is included in this guide to help you actively engage and learn.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Following each video lesson are several questions to help facilitate discussion focused on the weekly topic. These questions spark great discussion and participation. Please do not feel anxious if your group does not get to all of the questions each week. At the end of each session, you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying as a group is vital to connecting with God and one another.

## **DAILY READINGS AND JOURNAL PAGES**

Daily readings have been created to help lead you on your *Hope Again* journey. Journal pages are included with each daily reading so you can write down what God is speaking to you.

## **MEMORY VERSE**

Each week you will find a key Bible verse for you to memorize. This memory verse will be focused on the topic of the week and you can memorize a portion of the verse each day.



# SESSION ONE

# SESSION I

## THE GOSPEL DEFINED

The Book of Romans is a perfect balance of profound theology and practical application. It reveals both who God is and how His plan for humanity changes us. The book is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Rome, the most powerful city of its age. It was the political and cultural center of the empire.

If we would have walked its streets during Paul's time, we would have seen stately buildings and ornate temples to many different gods. Though it was wealthy and secure in some ways, many of its people were crippled with poverty. And in this context of the wealthy and destitute, powerful and powerless, we find a church looking for hope. In the book of Romans, Paul explains the ultimate hope—the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul begins the letter by sharing exactly what the gospel is. This is key. Much like a long journey, if we begin even a few degrees off track we'll end up miles away from our desired destination.

So let's begin by asking the biggest question of our spiritual lives—What is the Gospel?

*Our goal this week is to understand what **the gospel is** and what **the gospel isn't**.*

# WEEKEND MESSAGE NOTES AND QUESTIONS

*Use the following space to reflect on what you learned from the weekend message. Write down any questions you want to discuss with your small group.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# THE GOSPEL DEFINED

## GETTING STARTED

*Welcome to Session One! You and your small group are about to go on an amazing journey into the heart of hope! Let's start by getting to know one another.*

- **Share a little bit about yourself and what brought you to this small group.**
- **What do you hope to get out of the next six weeks?**



## WATCH THE LESSON

*Each week, you will watch a session video together. You'll find space for notes, questions, and thoughts you want to share or remember. After watching the video, have someone read the lesson's discussion questions, then you can discuss them as a group. Remember to share the responsibilities of leading and reading each week.*



# SMALL GROUP NOTES

YouCanHopeAgain.com!

## THE GOSPEL DEFINED

---

---

**GOSPEL: THE GOOD NEWS OR THE STORY OF THE \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS CHRIST.**

---

---

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16-17**

---

---

*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

---

---

# LET'S DISCUSS

*In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you have learned from the weekend message and small group study. Then discuss practical steps you can take to live out what you've learned.*

Living without hope can negatively impact us emotionally, spiritually, relationally, and even physically. However, the gospel allows us to hope again by sharing the good news—the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, Paul says:

*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

This passage is Paul's summary of the gospel, which includes the life, death, burial, and resurrection of the living Christ. The gospel is more than just information, it is the power of God to transform a person's life!

- **What was your understanding of the gospel before this teaching?**
- **How has your view of God been influenced by knowing that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins?**
- **Why was it important for Jesus to live a sinless life?**
- **How will having a greater clarity of the gospel impact how you live your life?**

In **Romans 1:16-17**, Paul gives us a clear explanation of what God has done for us in Christ and God's desired response for us:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

- **Because we are justified through Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, why is it important that we honor God by living a life of faith?**
- **Do you currently have a personal relationship with God? If so, what does that look like? If not, what questions do you have?**

# GO TO GOD

*We pray for each other because going to God is powerful in every situation. He gives us hope for eternity, but also offers help for today!*

## TAKE TIME TO:

1. Share what you need prayer for — maybe it's a place where you need to hope again.
2. Pray for others, and write down how you can continue to pray for them throughout the week.
3. Share the *good things* God is doing in your life! What are you grateful for? What prayers have been answered?

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

*Give each person a chance to share prayer requests and praise reports.  
Write your personal prayer requests and take notes on how you can pray  
for each other.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A white outline map of the world is centered on a solid red background. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, with their coastlines and major islands clearly defined. The text is overlaid on the map, centered over the Atlantic Ocean.

**THERE'S GOOD NEWS  
FOR A BROKEN WORLD.**

# DAILY GUIDE

*Did you know you can receive hope from God every day? All you need to do is open a Bible and start reading! Each time you open Scripture, you hear directly from Him. The Bible is a library of books that contains eternal truths for every area of life. Each week, there are daily guides to read and engage with on your own. Each daily guide begins with a Scripture (don't skip this!), includes a brief teaching, and has space for reflection.*

*The daily guide will take less than two minutes to read. This is an excellent opportunity to build or strengthen the habit of meeting with God daily. Beyond reading, we also invite you to put the truth you learn into practice—this is where life change happens.*

## **HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT:**

### **TRANSFORMATION, NOT JUST INFORMATION**

God is in the business of transforming, not just informing. Act on what you learn and count on the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and help you.

### **TRUTH STRONG ENOUGH TO BUILD A LIFE ON**

In a world filled with deception and depression, God's Word is a source of truth and triumph. It is strong enough to build your life on. You will never regret letting Scripture guide you.

### **TRAINING TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

As you will learn, getting right with God happens in an instant with Jesus. However, Christ's new life inside of you still blossoms over a lifetime. You will be trained and equipped for the wonderful purpose God has for your life.

Whether you're exploring Christianity for the first time or have followed Jesus for a lifetime, God has something new for you each day. Press in!

SESSION 1

# DAY 1: GOOD NEWS FOR US

***FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK***

ROMANS 1:16

The gospel is good news for *you*. It's also good news for *us*.

Paul, the author of Romans, was intentional when he said the gospel of Christ was God's explosive power to save both Jewish and non-Jewish people alike. The church in Rome was experiencing friction between those two groups. You had some who were Jewish by lineage. They grew up holding to Old Testament customs and laws. This directly affected their view of being a follower of Jesus.

Then you had others who were Gentiles, or non-Jewish by heritage. They didn't understand the customs and rituals of their Jewish brothers and sisters. This led to some arguments, which turned into hurt feelings, and was beginning to boil over into division. Similarly, don't we see division all around us today? Yet Jesus wants us walking in unity as his people. In Him, we as believers can be unified—even in a divided world.

The gospel is really good news.

The gospel is God's message and mission that saves us as individuals *and* unites us as believers, no matter our cultural heritage, economic status, native language, sins we've committed, or any other outward difference. When the gospel enters a human life, marriage, home, or culture transformation becomes possible!

The gospel, my friend, is very good news for us. As we unite around God's message and mission, we are compelled to carry His love for one another and hope for our broken, divided world.



# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

# DAY 2: GOOD NEWS FOR YOU

***THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS, OF WHOM I AM CHIEF. HOWEVER, FOR THIS REASON I OBTAINED MERCY, THAT IN ME FIRST JESUS CHRIST MIGHT SHOW ALL LONGSUFFERING, AS A PATTERN TO THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BELIEVE ON HIM FOR EVERLASTING LIFE.***

1 TIMOTHY 1:15–16

Gospel. It's a word most of us have heard, and probably even used. But what does it mean? Is it an abstract theological concept? Or, is it something more concrete?

Literally translated, gospel means “good news.” The gospel is a message about the greatest rescue mission in history. The Apostle Paul puts it this way in today's guiding verses: “Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

There's no getting around it, every human being is a sinner. In Romans 3:23, Paul writes, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We've all sinned. This sin—or rebellion against what is good, right, and godly—separates us from God.

It's interesting, but Paul admits that if you think you're bad, he's even worse! He calls himself the “chief” sinner. But his life is the perfect example of why the gospel is such good news. He went from persecuting Christians to becoming perhaps the greatest Christian missionary in history. *The gospel has the power to do the same for you and me.*

The gospel is the good news that God's power to save you is greater than sin's power to condemn you.

# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

# DAY 3: WHAT THE GOSPEL ISN'T

***BUT TO HIM WHO DOES NOT WORK BUT BELIEVES ON HIM WHO JUSTIFIES THE UNGODLY, HIS FAITH IS ACCOUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...***

ROMANS 4:5

Sometimes we need to look at what something *is not* to understand fully what *it is*. Let's set this guardrail: the gospel isn't something *we do* to be right with God.

## **THE GOSPEL IS NOT TRYING TO IMPROVE YOURSELF.**

Some see the gospel as a self-help seminar for moral improvement, or a chance to turn over a new leaf and work to become a better person. The gospel is not simply a collection of good ideas that improve our lives.

## **THE GOSPEL IS NOT FEEDING THE POOR OR HELPING PEOPLE.**

Some believe the gospel means helping others who are down. They think, "If I can just help enough struggling people I will be right with God!" It's wonderful and right to help people who are struggling. But is the gospel really about doing good things to earn (and keep) God's favor?

## **THE GOSPEL IS NOT EARNING OUR SALVATION.**

Some understand the gospel to mean earning our way into God's favor through our own effort. The trap is—some think if we do enough good things, God will let us into heaven. But is the gospel really a message that we simply use to clean ourselves up to make God love us?

Does the gospel compel us to improve ourselves? Yes! Does the gospel give us compassion to help people in need? Absolutely! Does the gospel compel us to live in obedience to Jesus? YES! But each of these good actions are outcomes of how the gospel moves us into action. The gospel—the good news—is the free gift of salvation that comes through faith in Jesus' work for us on the cross. Once we believe the gospel and surrender to Christ, we work together to change the world.



**THE GOSPEL—THE  
GOOD NEWS—IS  
THE FREE GIFT OF  
SALVATION THAT  
COMES THROUGH  
FAITH IN JESUS' WORK  
FOR US ON THE CROSS.**

# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

SESSION 1

# DAY 4: WHO WAS PAUL?

***PAUL, A BONDSERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE, SEPARATED TO THE GOSPEL OF GOD...***

ROMANS 1:1

Paul's life story is wild.

Before coming to Christ, he was a complex being: a Jew, a citizen of Rome, a trained rabbi, a Pharisee, and a vicious opponent of the gospel.

Paul [then known as Saul] saw Christianity as a dangerous threat to Judaism. He believed Christians blasphemed the Old Testament's message, falsely claiming Jesus as the promised Messiah. He made it his personal mission to stamp it out, rallying other devout Jewish people to persecute and kill Christians. In fact, he even oversaw the stoning of Stephen—the first Christian martyr—in Acts 7.

So, how on earth did he go from a man who hated Jesus' followers to one who identified as a servant of Christ? Here's how...Paul met Jesus (Acts 9)! My friends, we cannot meet the resurrected Christ and not be changed. God turned Paul 180-degrees, setting him on a new course he could never have imagined.



When the gospel message truly gets into our hearts we are never the same. Paul experienced peace beyond understanding, contentment in the midst of hardship, and true joy even when being persecuted. Paul spent the rest of his life on three epic missionary journeys throughout Asia and Europe. Astoundingly, he ended up writing two-thirds of the New Testament, helping spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire!

**How has meeting Jesus redirected your life?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A white outline map of the world is centered on a solid red background. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, along with major islands and archipelagos. The text is overlaid on the map, centered over the Atlantic Ocean.

**YOU CANNOT MEET THE  
RESURRECTED CHRIST  
AND NOT BE CHANGED.**

# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

# DAY 5: THE GREAT INCLUDER

***I AM A DEBTOR BOTH TO GREEKS AND TO BARBARIANS, BOTH TO WISE AND TO UNWISE.***

ROMANS 1:14

Have you ever heard Christianity criticized for being too exclusive? After all, the gospel message is centered on the belief that Jesus—not Buddha, Mohammad, or any other religious figure—is the only way to eternal life. Isn't that a little narrow-minded to think we are the *only* ones to have it right?

In Scripture, though, we see a more powerful picture emerge. The gospel is radically inclusive. Everyone is given the opportunity to have a relationship with Jesus! Christians serve a God who loves everyone and removes all barriers to salvation. All we do is respond to Christ's work on the cross with belief and repentance—and that changes everything.

You see, Paul's mission was to share this message with *everyone*. We can think of him as the "great includer." As we learned yesterday, he spent his life travelling far and wide to make sure that Greeks, Romans, Jews, and everyone else could meet Jesus. Because of this, Christianity has become the most ethnically-diverse body of people the world has ever seen.

Paul preached the good news message of *hope*. He preached the message of hope for the present and the future. He preached to the poor and uneducated, to the rich and the well-learned, to men, women, and children. Paul's life and teaching models for us that the gospel message is for all and to all.

This is just a sneak peek of heaven, where there will be “a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne...” (Revelation 7:9).

**How does God’s love for all people impact the way you view humanity?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**THE GOSPEL IS  
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE.  
EVERYONE IS INVITED  
INTO A RELATIONSHIP  
WITH JESUS!**

# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

SESSION 1

# DAY 6: SAVING FAITH

***FOR IN IT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH; AS IT IS WRITTEN, “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”***

ROMANS 1:17

Did you know every person alive has faith? Atheists have faith. Agnostics have faith. Christians have faith.

Faith and belief are about trust. In whom or in what do you place your trust? You sit in a chair because you have faith that it will hold you up. You put in a day’s work at your job because you believe you will get paid for your efforts. You may disclose deep, personal secrets with a friend because you trust the friend to hold confidence.

Everyone lives by faith. Yet, Paul is addressing the most important aspect of faith in today’s guiding verse—*faith in God*. Genuine faith in God changes us completely. It changes how we think, what we say, and what we do—all for the better!

Christians can have faith that: God is who He says He is, He will fulfill his promises, the Bible is true, Jesus is alive, and by believing in him we have eternal life! This quality of faith shapes our thoughts, aspirations, and actions. Saving faith doesn’t trust in our ability to perform. True faith trusts in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.



Take a moment to let the saving faith of Christ act as a blazing spotlight in your heart. **Where have you believed lies about your salvation? Have you felt like God will reject you if you're imperfect?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

We can trust in God's unconditional love for us because He proves it through Christ's sacrifice. If saving faith casts a shadow, it would be in the shape of a cross.

# REFLECT

## SESSION 1 MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**Romans 1:16–17**

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

---

---

---

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I APPLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME?

---

---

---

### HOW CAN I BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER TODAY?

---

---

---

# DAY 7: WEEKLY REFLECTION

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE REALIZATIONS YOU HAD THIS SESSION?

---

---

---

WHAT IS THE MAIN THING YOU BELIEVE GOD WANTS YOU TO APPLY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# APPENDICES

*Resources to make your small group experience excellent!*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **WHAT DO WE DO ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE GROUP?**

Make sure everyone in your group has the opportunity to introduce himself or herself and share what they are expecting from this study. But most importantly, have fun as your study begins.

### **WHERE DO I FIND NEW MEMBERS FOR THE GROUP?**

This can be challenging, especially for new groups that only have a few people or for existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to pray with your group and then brainstorm a list of people from work, church, your neighborhood, your children's school, family, the gym, and so forth. Have each group member invite several of the people on his or her list. No matter how you find members, it is vital to stay on the lookout for new people to join your group. All groups tend to go through healthy transitions—the results of moves, releasing new leaders, ministry opportunities, and situations and opportunities that arise. If you and your group stay open, you will be amazed at the people God sends your way.

### **WHO IS THE SMALL GROUP HOST?**

Most groups have an official host who facilitates the groups. But ideally, the group will mature, and members will share the small group host role. This model ensures all members grow, give their unique contribution, and develop their gifts. The study guide and the Holy Spirit can keep things on track even when you rotate hosts. Christ has promised to be in your midst as you gather.

### **CAN I DO THIS STUDY ON MY OWN?**

You sure can, but you may choose to gather with co-workers, family members, or a few friends who would enjoy the connection. Jesus will be with you even if there are only two of you. (Matthew 18:20)

### **WHAT IF THIS GROUP IS NOT WORKING FOR ME?**

You are not alone! This could be the result of a personality conflict, life-stage difference, geographical distance, level of spiritual maturity, or any number of things. Relax. Pray for God's direction, and at the end of this six-week study, decide whether to continue with this group or find another. Also, do not run from conflict or pre-judge people before you have given them a chance. God is still working in your life, too!

### **HOW LONG WILL THIS GROUP MEET?**

Groups meet every week throughout the six-week *Hope Again* series. At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she wants to continue on for another study. Some groups launch relationships for years to come, and others are stepping-stones into another small group. Either way, enjoy the journey.

### **HOW DO WE HANDLE THE CHILDCARE NEEDS IN OUR GROUP?**

We suggest you empower the group to brainstorm solutions openly. You may try one option that works for a while and then adjust over time. A favorite approach is for adults to meet in the living room or dining room and to share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can watch the kids in a different part of the house. This way, parents do not have to be away from their children all evening when their children are too young to be left at home. A second option is to use one home for the kids and a second home (close by or a phone call away) for the adults. Finally, the most common solution is to decide you need to have a night to invest in your spiritual lives and to make arrangements for childcare. No matter what decision the group makes, the best approach is to dialogue openly about both the problem and the solution.

# SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

*It is a good idea to begin the small group with clear guidelines and expectations. These guidelines will help each person understand the group's goals and lay a foundation for a healthy group experience. Please take a few moments to review the guidelines the group is to agree upon.*

## **COMMUNITY:**

Spiritually and relationally grow in the context of a small group community.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Make a commitment to attend the group each week.

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT:**

Create a safe, non-judgmental place for people to come and feel loved.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Keep everything shared in the group *in* the group.

## **INVITE OTHERS:**

Invite friends and new people to the group and warmly welcome newcomers.

## **USE WISDOM:**

Commit to using wisdom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings so as to avoid causing a brother or sister to stumble spiritually. Be sensitive to others' spiritual conscience (1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Romans 14:19-21).

## **SHARED OWNERSHIP:**

Remember that everyone is a minister, and ensure each attendee will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

## **A NOTE TO SMALL GROUP HOSTS:**

- You may want to provide name tags for at least the first meeting.
- Open your group with a brief, simple prayer. Invite God to open your spiritual eyes and to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.
- After the opening prayer, review the Small Group Guidelines in the Appendices with the entire group. To lay the foundation for a healthy small group experience, it's a good idea to begin the first session with clear guidelines and expectations.
- Next, get contact information from every person in the group. You may pass around the Small Group Roster found in the Appendices, or use a sheet of paper. Ask someone in the group to make copies or type up the roster and email it to the group members during the week.
- Plan to rotate who hosts the group discussion after the first week. Studies have shown that healthy groups share the load. This helps to develop every member's ability to host a few people in a safe environment. Jesus consistently gave others the opportunity to serve alongside Him. (See Mark 6:30-44.)
- Study the rest of the Appendices for additional information about hosting the group.

# PRAYER OF SALVATION

The following prayer is an example of a prayer of salvation. If you or someone you know has decided to follow Christ, use this prayer as a guide to accepting God's forgiveness and committing to follow Him.

*Dear Jesus, I come to you today, a sinner, in need of a Savior. Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me, for shedding your blood for me. Jesus, I let go of my past, I turn to you, I turn to the cross. Come into my life. Forgive me. Wash me. Cleanse me with your blood. Jesus, I take my life, and I put it into your hands. From this day forward, I belong to you. Amen.*



# MEMORY VERSES

Commit these verses to memory and see the Word of God come alive in you!

## SESSION ONE:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

**ROMANS 1:16–17**

## SESSION TWO:

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

**ROMANS 1:20**

## SESSION THREE:

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**ROMANS 3:23**

## SESSION FOUR:

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**ROMANS 5:8**

## SESSION FIVE:

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**ROMANS 6:23**

## SESSION SIX:

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

**ROMANS 8:37**

# SMALL GROUP HOST ORIENTATION

*Congratulations! You have responded to the call to host a Hope Again group. As you prepare to host, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind...*

## **REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be asked to host your group. Remember, it is common for all good hosts to feel they are not ready. Moses, Solomon, Jeremiah, and Timothy were all reluctant to lead. God promises in Hebrews 13:5, ...“*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*” You will be blessed as you serve.

## **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME.**

Before you begin your session, go around the room in your mind, and pray for each member by name. You may want to review the prayer list at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead!

## **PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING AHEAD OF TIME.**

Review the sessions, Coaching Moments videos, and small group notes. Write down your responses to each question. Finally, review the “Outline for Each Session,” so you will remember the purpose of each section in the study.

## **DO NOT TRY TO DO IT ALONE.**

Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you lead the group, you will find your experience to be much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is call and ask people to help. You will probably be surprised at the response.

## **PROVIDE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN QUESTIONS.**

When guiding the discussion, always read aloud the transitional paragraphs and the questions. Ask the group if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passages. Do not call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.

## **WHEN YOU ASK A QUESTION, BE PATIENT.**

Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. Keep in mind: if silence does not bother you, it will not bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple “thanks” or “good job.” Then ask, “How about somebody else?” Or, “Would someone who has not shared like to add anything?” Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who are not ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time.

## **ALLOW YOUR EMERGING HOST(S) TO FACILITATE.**

Ask your emerging hosts to facilitate one or more sessions. Give plenty of encouragement and advance notice. You may be perfectly capable of leading each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to lead.

## **JUST BE YOU.**

If you will not be you, who will? God wants you to use your unique gifts and temperament. Do not try to do things exactly like another leader. Do them in a way that fits you! Just admit it when you do not have an answer. Apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you will sleep better at night!

## **BREAK UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS TO FACILITATE CONNECTION.**

If your group has more than seven people, we strongly encourage you to have the group gather occasionally in discussion circles of three or four people during the study. With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect deeper with the study and apply quicker what they are learning. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate, and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. It can also help people feel more loved in your group. When you gather again at the end of the section, you can have one person summarize the highlights from each circle. Small circles are also helpful during prayer time. People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests will not take as much time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests. People are more willing to pray in small circles if they know the whole group will hear all the prayer requests.

# SMALL GROUP ROSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Appendices

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Appendices

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_