

# **A Hopeful God**

## **Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application Lynn Haven UMC – May 24, 2020 – Pastor Craig Carter**

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NIV)*

Our God is a God of hope. He has given us free will to make choices about how we live our lives but, like a good father, He has many hopes about the choices we will make.

### **Discussion Starters:**

⇒ Think about your family. What choices do you hope your children or other family members make? What are some good things you hope they do? How might poor choices affect them and the whole family?

### **Key Sermon Points:**

What are some of the choices God hopes we make?

#### **1) God hopes we will repent and believe.**

*“The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” (Mark 1:15b NLT)*

⇒ What does it mean to repent? Explain this concept in your own words. Is repenting something we do once in our lifetime or more often?

#### **2) God hopes we will follow Jesus.**

*Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me...” (Mark 1:17 NLT) “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to Levi. (Mark 2:14 NLT)*

*“If any of you wants to be my disciple, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.” (Mark 8:34 NLT)*

⇒ “Following Jesus” is a key concept in Mark’s gospel. What does it mean to follow him, what does that look like in practice?

### **3) God hopes we will come to Him for help.**

When our Heavenly Father sees us hurting and struggling, His heart breaks and He stands ready, willing, and able to help. He waits and hopes that we'll call on Him and ask for His intervention.

*"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. (Mark 10:51 NLT)*

⇒ What do you want the Lord to do for you? Is there a burden you are carrying that you need to ask for help with?

### **4) God hopes we will use our God-given authority.**

The same authority and power Jesus gave to the disciples is given to us. God hopes we will exercise it for the purposes of the kingdom of God - to minister in Jesus' name, to bring healing, and to resist the attacks of Satan.

*[Jesus] called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority..." (Mark 6:7 NLT)*

*The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. (1 John 4:4b NLT)*

⇒ Are you surprised that Jesus' power and authority is available to us? What is an area of life where you would like to see this power working?

### **5) God hopes we will be ready for Christ's return.**

*"Since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert! Watch for him!" (Mark 13:33, 37 NLT)*

⇒ Are you eagerly anticipating the return of Jesus? Are you staying alert, and actively engaging in the work he has asked you to do for the kingdom of God? Do you even think about it?

### **Application for the Week:**

God has some high hopes for us as His children. He hopes we'll repent of our sins and believe the good news of salvation, that we will daily follow Jesus, call on Him for His help, use our God-given authority to live victoriously, and that we will all be ready for Christ's glorious return!

⇒ What choices do you need to make this week to fulfill the hopes God has for you?