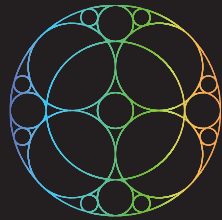


Discussion Guide.



# The Church I See

WEEK .03

IS PASSIONATE ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_

# Teaching Text



## **Romans 15:13**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **(NIV) Romans 15:13**

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.

## **1 Peter 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

## **Hebrews 6:9-12**

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

# Recap

This week Banning Liebscher continues the series called “**The Church I See**”, by diving into the subject of hope. Our church is to be a community where hope is alive and well and we are to be a people who are abounding in hope. The world around us is marked by hopelessness and hope tends to be a rare commodity in our society.

When we talk about “hope” we are specifically referring to the Biblical concept of hope. Not simply wishful thinking. The Bible defines hope as: a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. When we take an honest look at our lives, we have to ask ourselves if we are abounding in hope in our finances, relationships, personal health, families, etc. When you look ahead do you have confident expectations of good or do you have dread or worry?

As followers of Jesus we must be diligent in our hope because there is a war on hope in our lives. The enemy uses warfare strategies and has a plan to cut off the supply of hope in your life. Jesus refers to the devil as the father of lies. He uses

lies to cut off our supply of hope and to wear us down. As Steve Backlund says, “any area of your life that is not glistening with hope, is under the influence of a lie”.

We refuse to live as a hopeless people. It’s critical that we find hope because the Christian life is a life of faith. Faith is the currency of Heaven, it is what we live by. Mountains move when we have it, nothing is impossible to those who believe, we cannot please God apart from it. Hope is key to a life of faith and the continual presence of faith is where hope is ignited.



# Discussion Guide

## EMOTIONAL HEALTH CHECK IN

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

What's something you're looking forward to about the coming season? What's something you feel anxiety or uncertainty about?

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

### **ENGAGE**

1. When you think about the word "hope", what sort of feelings arise?
2. Is there a specific area of your life that you can confidently say is abundant in hope? What does that look like?
3. What are some practical ways that you can be "diligent" about hope?
4. How can you reignite hope when it is lost or feels really hard to have an expectation for something good?

### **ENCOUNTER**

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soaking music) in your group and ask Holy Spirit the following question:

Is there any area in my life that is not "glistening with hope and is under the influence of a lie" (Steve Backlund)? Take some time with the Holy Spirit and seek His divine revelation. Ask Him to replace any lie with His truth.

If time permits, allow those who want to, share what God spoke to them during the Encounter time.

### **EQUIP**

Sit down this week and examine the major areas of your life (finances, relationships, personal well-being) and honestly ask yourself if these areas are abundant with hope or if there is any anxiety or dread present. Invite the Holy Spirit into the process and journal what comes up. If there is dread or anxiety, ask the Holy Spirit what lie may be at the root.

