

**SIMPLY**

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**GOOD**

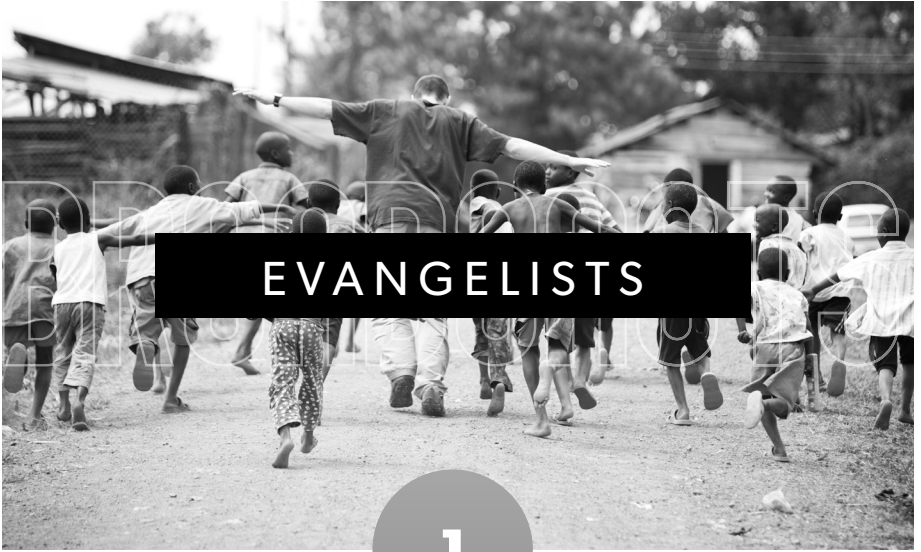
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**NEWS**

**STUDY GUIDE**



**Hope's 10 for 10**, which launched Nov. 2, 2019, details 10 goals for Hope in the next 10 years. With a fresh, updated vision for the next decade of ministry, we are ready to see the amazing ways God is going to move! This study is focused on goal #1, Broadcast.



## EVANGELISTS

1

### **BROADCAST**

the life-changing  
gospel of Jesus  
Christ to 10  
million people ...

... through inspired weekly gatherings (worship and creative arts), digital outreach (social media, podcasts, blogs, books, recorded music, apps, websites and teaching tools), open house events (Christmas, Easter, Vacation Bible School, Taste of Hope, revivals, community gatherings and calls to prayer), national and global partnerships (Alpha, Denmark Indre Mission, GlobeServe, etc.), and intentional outreach into the world of youth sports.

Isaiah 52:7 | John 20:21 | 2 Timothy 4:5

# SIMPLY GOOD NEWS

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# Session 1:

## “What’s the News?”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 1

### **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 1:1-3,9-15

*This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:*

*“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
and he will prepare your way.*

*He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!*

*Clear the road for him!’”*

*One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”*

*The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.*

*Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don’t feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. What’s the best news you’ve ever heard? How did you respond to it? Why was it so good? How did it change your life? Did it impact anyone else’s life? Was there anyone who didn’t care?
2. What’s the difference between Good News and advice? Why does it matter that Christianity is Good News and not advice? How do we sometimes fall into the trap of thinking it’s only advice?

3. How was Jesus' larger story, or historical context, similar to today?  
Why does Jesus' context matter to the Good News?
4. Think about Hope's first 10 for 10 goal (Broadcast). How does it focus on Good News? What are we, as Christians, called to do with this Good News? Why is this important? What are some ways we have shared the Good News in the past? What are some new and unique ways we could do it in the future? How are you broadcasting the Good News to people in your life?

### **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.



# PRAYER JOURNALING

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**Today I read** \_\_\_\_\_ **chapter(s)**

**Takeaways as I read...**

\_\_\_\_\_ *How I can apply this to my life...* \_\_\_\_\_





**Dear God,**

*Teach me...*

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*You are...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**



# Session 2:

## “Foolish, Scandalous, or Good?”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 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:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

*Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.*

*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.*

*But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.*

*But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.*

*But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. Why is the Good News boring, scandalous, nonsense or offensive to some people? Have you had anyone respond in one of those ways when you shared the Good News? What is the Christian claim that the Good News makes? Why does this matter? How is that different than what the world claims?
2. What was Paul's strategy when sharing the Good News? What was the reality that it revealed? Where do you stand in relation to that reality? How can we share the Good News today? What is the new reality that it reveals to people today?
3. How is the Good News a fact and not just something for someone to consider trying? What difference does make for spreading the Good News? What is the invitation of the Good News? How do we invite others into the Good News?
4. In what ways have people misunderstood Christianity? Why is it important to know the difference? What is the backstory behind the Good News? How does that apply to our lives today? What is the Good News that is talked about in Isaiah? How does that relate to Paul's Good News? What does the Good News mean will eventually happen?
5. As you read the first 10 for 10 goal (Broadcast), what stands out to you most? What are you most interested in? Is there something on that statement that first delivered the Good News to you? Who first told you the Good News of Jesus? Who have you told?

## **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,**

*Teach me...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**





# Session 3:

## *“Surprised by King Jesus”*

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 3

### **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 20:1-18;30-31

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”*

*So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.*

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.*

*They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”*

*“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”*

*Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”*

*Jesus said to her, “Mary.”*

*She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).*

*Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go*

*instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*"

*Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.*

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. What are Jesus' claims? How are these different than what many people think he claimed? What good news were the Israelites eager to hear? Why were they waiting for good news? What good news are you hoping for? What sort of energy does that give you?
2. What is the exodus? What does it communicate? How does that impact how the Israelites lived and viewed the world? How does Jesus' Good News relate to the exodus?
3. How was the kingdom of God different than what people expected? How is Christianity different than what people expect?
4. What were people expecting? How was Jesus different than what they were expecting? How is Jesus different than what you originally expected?
5. In what ways is God so much different than people think today? What does Easter mean for the news? If it weren't for Easter what would the news be? What's the difference between news and advice? What does the resurrection mean? Why is it significant? Is this different than how you used to understand it?

### **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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*Teach me...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**



# Session 4:

## “Distorted and Competing Gospels”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 4

### 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:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:*

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”*

*Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

*Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. In what ways is Jesus different, unexpected and misunderstood, both in the first century and today? How did this chapter change how you think about the gospel?

2. Why do creation and covenant matter when understanding the gospel? What is God's desire in creation? What does covenant tell us about God's relationship to humans? How do love and wrath relate? What is the main aim of Jesus' coming and dying? Why does that matter? What does covenant lead to? What does that mean?
3. What is the first problem we face in understanding the Good News? Why is it a problem? How does this miss the mark?
4. What is the second problem? Why is this a problem? How does the biblical picture of Good News differ from the world's understanding? How do rationalism and romanticism impact the Good News? Have you heard either of these two approaches communicated in the church? How has the focus moved away from the events and toward propositions? Why is this significant? What is the result of this understanding? How does this appeal to emotion, experience and feeling change the Good News?
5. What is the third problem? Why is this one a problem? What happened in the 18th century? How does that impact our world today? Why is the idea of an event that happened, or is happening, proved difficult to fit into our worldview?

## **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.





# PRAYER JOURNALING

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**Dear God,**

*Teach me...*

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*You are...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**



# Session 5:

## “Rethinking Heaven”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 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:** Isaiah 11:1-10

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.*

*He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.*

*He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

*Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

*The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.*

*The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

*The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.*

*They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD*

## AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.

*In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. When you think about heaven, what do you picture? How do you understand heaven? Did this chapter change how you think about "going to heaven"? How do you understand the second coming of Jesus? Did this chapter change how you think about that? How does the belief that we leave earth and never return impact how we live here and now? Why does the earth matter? How are we to understand our mission here in light of heaven and the second coming of Jesus?
2. How would you explain what happened? How would you explain what is going to happen? How does what happened relate to what is going to happen? How does the Good News impact how we think about heaven?
3. How does the Good News turn out to be Good News of the new creation? What happens to creation when humans are put right?
4. How is the Good News about the future tied to the Good News of the past? What does the resurrection mean?
5. As you think about our vision statement to be evangelists and broadcast the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ to people, how does this understanding of the Good News impact that? How can we better share the message with others in light of the information in this book so far?

### **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,**

*Teach me...*

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*You are...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**



# Session 6:

## “Wrong Future, Wrong Present”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 6

### **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:** Philippians 3:1-4:9

*Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such confidence.*

*If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.*

*But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.*

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

*All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*

*Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and*

*their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!*

*I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. How have the warnings Jesus gives in the gospels been misunderstood? What is meant when it's said that in a generation, heaven and earth will pass away? (Luke 21:32-33) How is our reading of that passage influenced by our time and culture? What would the original audience have understood? Why does this all matter?
2. What is the problem with progress? What does it assume about the past? How do you view progress? What does it assume about the "upstairs" and "downstairs"? How do those two interact? How is the secular world's view of the future different from the Christian perspective?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus is presently on the throne? Why does this world matter? Have you ever met someone who says there is no point to working toward justice in the world? What is the Christian response to that? Why should we be working toward the "new world" that Jesus brings in this life right now?



# PRAYER JOURNALING

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**Takeaways as I read...**

\_\_\_\_\_ *How I can apply this to my life...* \_\_\_\_\_



**Dear God,**

*Teach me...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**





# Session 7:

## “Surprised by God”

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 7

### 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 17:16-34

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.*

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’*

*“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with*

*justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”*

*When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don't feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. When you hear or say the word “God” do you identify at all with what the author was saying at the beginning of the chapter? Do you think other people feel the same? Why is that? Have you ever encountered someone who thinks of God as “dull, distant and dangerous”?
2. How has the understanding of God been distorted by secular culture? How do most people who aren't Christians think of God? How has this belief infiltrated the church? What is the truth about who God is? Why is this so significant? What does it say about the Good News?
3. The author points to God as Creator, Judge and Lover. What do each of these things mean to you? How do you experience God as each of these? How is this a different image from what secular culture tells us about God? Why are these three words significant when it comes to God and the Good News?
4. What impact does the information you've learned in this book so far have on Hope's 10 for 10 goals to be evangelists and broadcast the Good News? Where do you see idols in our world today? How are these false gods worshiped? How is God different and better?

## **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.



# 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 Simply Good News 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...*

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*You are...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**



# Session 8:

## *“Surprised by God”*

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**PRE-READING:** Chapter 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:** Matthew 6:5-15

*“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

*“This, then, is how you should pray:*

*“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’*

*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*These questions are conversation starters. Don’t feel pressure to answer them all. Instead, read through them, select a few that your group connects with, and discuss those together.*

1. What’s the difference between just believing the Good News and becoming Good Newspeople? How does that happen? What does the Lord’s Prayer have to do with the Good News?

2. What does it mean to enter the prayer from the backdoor? How does that get us to the Good News? Why does this matter when sharing the Good News with others?
3. What is the Good News? What is it primarily about? Why does that matter? What does it look like to come in the front door to prayer? How has prayer helped you with the Good News?
4. As you think back on this book, what can you do now to help spread the Good News to others? How can you live out the vision in Hope's 10 for 10 goals to be evangelists and broadcast the Good News?

## **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.

Also, close your group study by reciting the Lord's Prayer together...

*Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
And the power and the glory  
Forever and ever. Amen.*





# 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 Simply Good News 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...*

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*You are...*

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*I confess...*

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*I'm thankful for...*

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**Specific Prayer Requests:**

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**Amen.**











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