



## Sermon Discussion Guide

April 13 & 14, 2024

"Surprised by God"

[Matthew 18:1-5](#)

This month's sermon series, "Hope Stories" highlight transformation only God can do. Jesus told a lot of stories. He told simple stories about everyday life to help his followers comprehend the deepest and most challenging spiritual truths. Good stories can be unforgettable, remind us of who we are, reveal truth, change our minds (repentance), turn us right side up, inspire us, and point us to a whole new (and better) way of life. Join us as we explore these stories.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any "ah-ha" moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

#### Read [Matthew 18:1-5](#) - "The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven"

- When was the last time God surprised you? What did you learn from that? How do we let God write our story instead of us?
- Who does Jesus say is the greatest? Why do we often wonder and talk about who is the greatest? How does the world define greatness? How is that different than the way Jesus does? Why does that matter that it's different?

#### Read [Psalm 8:2](#) (MSG)

- Do you ever feel like you don't know enough to share God's love with others? What does this passage say? How can we share the Good News when we don't have all the answers?

#### Read [2 Corinthians 3:3](#)

- What does this passage mean? How are you a letter from Christ? What does it look like to deliver God's message to people who need to hear it? Who are you sharing it with now? Who can you share it with next?

### APPLY

Talk with your group about the gifts you have been given. How can you use those to reach new people with the everlasting love of Jesus Christ? Who can you invite to join your Hope Group? Extend an invitation to a new person to grow your group in number so that more people can experience God's love through your group.