



Sermon Discussion Guide

Nov. 16 & 17, 2024

“Connect to a Church With a Heart for Community”

[Acts 2:42-47](#)

During the month of November, we'll be having a giving campaign called Building Hope for Tomorrow. We believe God is calling Hope to position ourselves for future generations. Over the next few weeks, we'll be talking a lot about this vision. Be praying about what God wants to do through you to reach out to the world around us!

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 [2 Corinthians 9:7](#) – “Generosity Encouraged”

- Pastor Mike emphasized the importance of giving without guilt or manipulation. How do you approach giving in your own life? Do you feel like a cheerful giver? Why or why not? How can your small group encourage one another to pray about giving, focusing on what God wants to accomplish through you? Reflect on a time when giving brought you joy. How might that experience shape your perspective on generosity moving forward?

Read [Acts 2:42-47](#) – “The Fellowship of the Believers”

- The early church grew because of its devotion to teaching, fellowship and generosity. How can your small group reflect these same values? Pastor Mike shared stories of lives transformed at Hope. How can your group contribute to creating a welcoming and life-changing community for others? How might participating in the Building Hope for Tomorrow campaign help your group impact those who aren't yet part of the church?

Read [Matthew 13:31-32](#) – “The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast”

- Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as starting small but growing into something that provides shelter and refuge. How do you see this vision playing out at Hope?
- What small acts of faith and generosity could your group plant now that might grow into something greater for the community? Discuss how your group can intentionally create “branches” that provide shelter and support to others, both inside and outside the church.

Read [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) – “Oppression, Toil, Friendlessness”

- “Two are better than one.” How has being part of a small group strengthened your faith and walk with God? How can your group strengthen its bond to better support one another through challenges and celebrate joys together?
- Pastor Mike mentioned how the church helps fill the “hole” people feel in their lives. What specific actions can your group take to reach out to those who may feel disconnected or in need of community?

APPLY

Brainstorm as a group how you can contribute in new ways to the whole church's vision. This might include giving, volunteering or inviting others to experience the community at Hope.

Identify one person or family in your community who could benefit from the shelter and support the church provides. Commit to reaching out to them as a group with an invitation to church or small group.