



Sermon Discussion Guide

Nov. 1 & 2, 2025

"Is there Hope for the American Church?"

[Ephesians 3:18-21](#)

This five-part series in our year-long theme **52 Questions for 2025** explores what we believe and why. Over the next few weeks, we'll look at what sets Christianity apart, why there are so many denominations, what we believe about the Reformation and the church, and how faith compares to atheism and agnosticism. Join us each week as we take a closer look at what we believe.

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 [Ephesians 3:16-21](#) – "A Prayer for the Ephesians"

- Paul prays that believers will be strengthened with God's power through the Holy Spirit. What does it mean for you to be strengthened "from the inside out"?
- Jesus doesn't want to be one part of our lives but the center. How could your group support one another in staying spiritually centered?
- Paul describes God's love as too wide, long, high, and deep to fully understand. How can you remind yourself of that love each day?
- What do you think a "full" life in Christ looks like? Where do you notice emptiness or restlessness that only he can fill?

Read [Revelation 3:20](#) – "To the Church in Laodicea"

- Jesus describes himself standing and knocking. What do you think it means for someone to "open the door" to Jesus?
- What are some barriers that keep people (or you) from opening the door more fully?
- Why do you think Jesus uses the image of a shared meal to describe fellowship with him? How might worship, communion, or small group gatherings reflect that same kind of connection? What changes when faith feels relational instead of religious?
- The message said that the hope for the American church begins with Jesus in our hearts. How could this week be different if you truly started each day conscious of his presence within you? What might that awareness change about your priorities?

Read [Luke 10:38-42](#) – "At the Home of Martha and Mary"

- Jesus gently reminds Martha that she is "worried and upset about many things." What are some of the "plates" you tend to keep spinning in your own life? How do busyness and distraction keep people from noticing Jesus' presence? What helps you slow down?
- Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. What do you think that posture represents—both physically and spiritually?
- When Jesus said Mary had "chosen the better part," he meant something that would never be taken away. What are the temporary things that often pull your attention away from what's eternal? How can you choose the better part this week?

Read [Matthew 25:34-40](#) – "The Sheep and the Goats"

- Why do you think Jesus identifies so closely with people in need? How does that reshape the way you view serving others?
- The sermon said when we feed the hungry, we're feeding Jesus. How does that change the way you think about outreach?
- How might your group serve in a way that reflects God's heart? How could serving others help strengthen your faith?
- How can you guard against compassion fatigue or serving from guilt instead of gratitude?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Reclaim the table.** Share an unhurried meal with someone. Before you eat, pause and pray, "Jesus, be present at this table." Let that time remind you that life with God is meant to be shared, not managed.
- **Let Scripture interrupt you.** Instead of adding one more thing to your to-do list, let God's word interrupt your normal rhythm. Open your Bible or Bible app the next time you're tempted to scroll, and read one story from the Gospels. Let the Bible become less of a task and more of a companion that recenters your day.
- **Bring hope where you are.** Think of one space you regularly occupy and ask God to make you attentive there. Who seems weary or unseen? What need can you quietly meet? This is mission in its simplest form: Jesus in you, bringing light to ordinary places.