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GOD'S HOPE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Session 9:

God's 5 Great Hopes for Your Life

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | November 26, 2017



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

Sharing Life Together

- Describe the bumpiest or roughest ride you have ever been on in your life? (car, plane, boat)
- What drives you batty the most? Pictures that are crooked on the wall, tables poorly set, bed spreads not evenly placed, things out of their place, etc.?

GOD'S 5 GREAT HOPES FOR YOUR LIFE

1. BE LOVED - Worship
2. BELONG - Fellowship
3. BECOME - Discipleship
4. BE BLESSED - Serving
5. BE SENT - Evangelism

Nearly every leader in the bible found their lives off track and out of alignment with God's purposes.

- The first couple struggled over marriage leadership issues.
- The first family had to deal with murder.
- Noah ended up drunk as a skunk one night and passed out naked.

- Abraham the Father of Faith, was once so driven by own personal **fears** that he told lies to save his own hide.
- Isaac had a dastardly family embezzlement scam.
- **Jacob's** struggles with deception were notable.
- Joseph spent a good part of his life in jail.
- Moses murdered at least one Egyptian.
- **Rahab** was a common prostitute.
- David was an illustrious politician who had an affair with another man's wife.
- **Elijah** the great prophet of God struggled terribly with depression.
- James and John had such anger issues they were called the sons of Thunder.
- **Peter's** personal betrayal of Jesus reached such a height that he lied about even knowing Jesus.
- **Thomas** struggled with doubts so badly that his nick name is still used today over 2000 later.
- The great apostle Paul himself battled with depression.

FIVE THINGS THAT ARE TRUE OF EVERYONE WHO IS GREATLY USED OF GOD

1. First, they are living lives of consistent **Worship**.

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ Matthew 22:37

23 *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*
John 4:23-24

2. Second, they are involved in Biblical **Fellowship**.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

3. The third thing they do is be continually committed to finding deeper ways follow Jesus - they are **Disciples**.

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. John 8:31

4. The fourth thing is that they know their own **Mission**.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:26

*26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. **Luke 22:26-27***

5. The fifth is they seek for ways to share the gospel with their friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. They are committed to **Evangelism**.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

*They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." **Acts 16:31***



What happens when the wheels of your car go out of alignment?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Note: Open your group with a prayer. Have everyone pair up to share their answers.

1. Simple long-term wear and tear without down-time and repair can bring it about misalignment. When is the last time you took **TIME** to seriously stop and reflect over your existence?
2. Sin is **AN AWFUL** like riding down a road filled with huge pot holes. Nothing will get your life out of alignment with the will of God faster. What in your life needs to be dealt with?
3. Go over the 5 purposes one final time. Rate them from low to high in your life.

- **BE LOVED / WORSHIP** L 1 2 3 4 5 H
- **BELONG / FELLOWSHIP** L 1 2 3 4 5 H
- **BECOME / DISCIPLESHIP** L 1 2 3 4 5 H
- **BLESS / SERVING** L 1 2 3 4 5 H
- **BE SENT / EVANGELISM** L 1 2 3 4 5 H

Starting from the lowest to the highest, talk about what you would need to do to move them up a tick or two.

STOP AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER



Note: Please have everyone pair up for prayer and then you should close.

As we wind down our series tonight we are going to pray about two different things. First, pray according to what was just shared with you.

After you've prayed about that, share a request or two with each other for whatever is on your heart as you enter into the Christmas season.