



# APRIL 21

## THE NEW REALITY

### A NEW HOPE



#### GETTING STARTED

This week we continued in our three-week miniseries, *The New Reality*. When we enter God's Kingdom as His sons and daughters, we have a new hope in Jesus that becomes a part of our story. It changes how we live, think, and walk out our faith in Him.

Begin this study by spending a few minutes in prayer using these words of Paul to craft a prayer for yourself:

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19a*



#### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the weekend message?
2. Before hearing this message, how would you define hope?
3. Outside of Jesus, what other things do you tend to place your hope in and why? (i.e., your bank account, a political leader, career, relationships, etc.)
  - a. How have those things come through for you or failed you?
4. What character traits of God's heart have you experienced that now provide you with hope and sustain your faith in Him? (i.e., His loving, kindness, forgiveness, faithfulness, patience, mercy, provision, etc.)
  - a. Write down those experiences. These would be great testimonies to share in your Life Group this week!
5. Read Romans 4:18-21. As Joel said this weekend, "Abraham's hope was powerful because it was placed in God and what God had promised." Put yourself in Abraham's shoes. Do you think a promise like the one given to Abraham would be enough to sustain your faith throughout your life? Explain.
6. Joel unpacked three areas in this weekend's message that can operate from our new hope in Jesus as Christ-followers:
  - *Hope Produces . . . Courage To Face Today.*
  - *Hope Produces . . . Conviction To Stand Tall.*
  - *Hope Produces . . . Compassion For Others.*

- a. Which of these three areas is easiest for you to operate in and why?
  - b. Of these three areas, where could you apply more of the hope of Jesus? Explain.
7. In the message, Joel touched upon a story in Daniel, Chapter 3, about three men of God who showed courage and conviction in the face of extreme adversity. Read this incredible story and write down anything the Lord highlights for you.
- a. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were determined to take a stand no matter the outcome. Reread verses 16-18. How would you describe what they believed about God based on these verses?
  - b. How did their *Courage To Face Today* and *Conviction To Stand Tall* impact Nebuchadnezzar's faith?
  - c. What was the blessed outcome of their obedience?
  - d. How ready are you to stand for your faith, even if it costs you? What feelings come to the surface when you consider that?
8. In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus shares the parable of the Good Samaritan. This was at a time when hatred existed between the Jews and Samaritans, and they did not associate with one another. Read this passage twice through.
- a. What main point was Jesus making by sharing this story?
  - b. Why do you think the priest and Levite passed by the man?
  - c. List all the ways the Good Samaritan showed the man compassion.
  - d. How would you have responded if you came upon a man left nearly dead on the side of the road? To what extent would you have helped him, if at all?
9. Considering what we've learned through the weekend message and this study, what practical step can you take this week towards being courageous, standing in conviction, or responding with compassion?
- a. As you finish the study, spend a few minutes praying and asking the Lord to help you take that practical step as you root all your hope in Jesus.



## TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often, those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

- 1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time**
- 2. Pray Several Times Together**
- 3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple**