

Village Guide

Current Series: Boundless

Texts: Acts of the Apostles 1.1-11 and 3.20-21, Matthew 19.28, Colossians 1.19-20, Ephesians 1.9-10, Romans 8.19-21, 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

Core Value Focus: Hope: The world as it is, isn't the world as it will be.

Big Ideas from the Message:

- Hope
- We look up but heaven looks down.
 - In other words, we want to find help from elsewhere. Often this leads some to want to escape this world and find their hope in a different one (heaven). But the New Testament resists this understandable human desire. It teaches endurance. It teaches that we are hope, embodied. It teaches that this world is being and will ultimately be renewed, restored, or healed.
- The “restoration of all things,” “renewal of all things,” “reconciling of all things,” “gathering up all things,” “creation [being] set free from slavery and decay,” “new creation,” and “reconciling the world” (from the above passages) are all ways of speaking of what Jesus kick-started with his resurrection. He will return to finish the work of bring heaven to earth, which will be the eternal home of all who are in Christ. Eternity is “here” ultimately, thus there’s hope for this world!
 - “The Bible renders to us the story of God’s mission through God’s people in their engagement with God’s world for the sake of the whole of God’s creation.” Christopher JH Wright in *The Mission of God*
- The Christian hope extends to:
 - Cosmos: creation will be made right, including resurrected humanity.
 - Others: God is gathering up a human community, renewed after Christ’s likeness.
 - Self: God sees each person and desire them to be known by Christ.
- Hope is our Message.

CONNECT (5 min)

- Question chosen for open group discussion or someone pre-invited to share their story.

HEAR (5 min)

- Spend some time in your group sharing what you recall from Sunday’s message. Give a loose theme or subject of the sermon to jumpstart everyone’s thoughts and recollections. (Example: “On Sunday, Kurt continued our series, Boundless, and talked about our value: Hope. Who was there on Sunday? Could you recap the content for us?” What struck you, and what questions did it leave you with?)
- Read Acts 1.1-11 and pick three other passages from the list to read aloud. What did Kurt say that these passages reveal about God? About us? Do you see anything differently or that wasn’t mentioned in this particular sermon?

TALK (20 min)

*Note: This format is intentionally less linear in an effort to generate discussion. It is not meant to be followed left-to-right, nor do all the questions need to be asked. As a facilitator, stewarding good discussion means modeling **true listening**, which also means a conversation without an agenda. Use your discernment to see what your group needs to talk about.*

<i>Conceptual</i>	<i>Practical Implications</i>	<i>Spiritual Formation</i>
Hope in Scripture	Hope and regular life	Hope and spiritual formation
<p>What do you think is the hope of the Christian faith, if you were to summarize it?</p> <p><i>Central to Pangea’s identity is that the message of the Kingdom is both a present and future reality (already and not-yet). Where does the Bible give us examples of the Kingdom as either (or both) already and not yet? Use the google machine to help ya!</i></p> <p><i>Read the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. How does Jesus’ prayer inform our conversation on hope in the Scriptures?</i></p>	<p>Without being overtly negative (in other words, we try to think critically about ideas without dehumanizing those we disagree with!), can you think of examples where the Christian message of hope has been coopted?</p> <p>What was considered the message of Christianity when you were a child or younger in your faith journey? How does it stack up with the Scriptures as you understand them? How does this challenge our methods of reaching people for Christ with the gospel?</p> <p><i>Many of us who have reframed our vision of the Christian hope, sometimes react by putting less emphasis on evangelism. This is certainly understandable, in light of some of our stories. How might we reimagine evangelism (sharing the saving hope of Jesus with others) so that we see friends become followers of Jesus in our day?</i></p>	<p><i>Take a few minutes of silence to think of what your current experience of life these past couple weeks have been like. (Give a few minutes for reflection before asking the question).</i></p> <p>Do you every feel like life is hopeless in this world? How does your faith inform, comfort, and challenge this?</p> <p><i>If God’s world is the object of hope, with people, then it makes sense that some people encounter God in nature. Share about a time or experience that your hope in God was formed by an experience with Jesus in nature.</i></p> <p>Is there a spiritual formation practice that might help shape your soul as a person of hope? How might this empower you to share this hope with others?</p>

(Space for your own questions or notes)

LIVE (20 min)

- Is there anything specific that you feel like our discussion here tonight will impact you in this next week?
- How might we pray for each other in light of our discussion and other highs/lows in each other’s lives?