

# LIVING HOPE: THE HIDDEN HOPE OF SUFFERING

## **Scripture Memory of the Month**

*"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Acts 20:35

## **1) CATCH UP ON LIFE**

*This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)*

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? **Are there any practical needs you have right now?**

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

## **2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART**

*God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. Therefore we sit under the preached Word on Sundays and apply its truth as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)*

### **Read Luke 22:14-20**

*Christians take communion to celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When we take communion, we remember what Jesus has done on our behalf and our continued need for the gospel and Jesus' active work in our lives.*

*Tonight, we will take communion together. We will take some time to reflect, confess our need for a savior, and then share the gospel with each other prior to eating and drinking. (If you are not a Christian or are not sure, feel free to watch or join in, but you should not take communion until you are certain you have placed faith in Jesus)*

*The good news of the gospel applies to all situations of life that we encounter; good and bad. In difficult seasons when we need the gospel the most, we often get distracted and fail to actively apply the good news to our struggles. Where are you having trouble allowing the gospel to bring you peace? Where do you need to repent of sin?*

*What do you know about the gospel that you can apply to what you are dealing with?*

*We all need the gospel to be true all of the time. When you became a Christian you acknowledged your sinfulness and your need for a savior. Communion is us confessing this once more and celebrating Jesus death on our behalf.*

*Let's partake in the bread. This is the body of Christ, broken for us that we might be made whole.*

*Now, let's take of the cup. This is the blood of Christ, that covers our sin and makes us a new creation.*

*Take time to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for what Christ has done for and in us.*

*As family, we are supposed to bear one another's burdens. This means not only being there for others; this means allowing others to be there for you. It requires vulnerability, openness, and honesty. We'd like everyone to share a way that we, as a group, can help you to keep the good news of the gospel fresh in your mind this week. (remind you where your identity is found ...that Jesus came to save sinners ...that you aren't meant to be strong all the time...that you don't have to compare yourself to others.)*

### **3) REVIEW THE MISSION**

*Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

*\*\*\*Things are a little different right now. Social distancing can make it difficult to be a light in the darkness. What are some ways we can continue to be intentional about sharing the gospel with others right now?*

#### **People:**

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

#### **Plan:**

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

#### **Pray:**

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.