



Life Group Guide: The Great Hometown Commission – Part 2
Get Your Hopes Up for Sharing the Good News
Pastor Kevin Casey – May 3, 2026

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Prayer Focus: Ask God to open hearts, raise hope, and give boldness to share the gospel.

Icebreaker Question:

When was the last time you felt genuinely hopeful about something? What made you feel that way? Abraham had a promise and God gave him something to look at to give him hope so he became fully persuaded it would happen.

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This week's message challenged us to examine our level of hope and expectation when it comes to sharing the gospel. Pastor emphasized that many believers love God but have quietly lost hope that their life will make a difference in someone else's eternity. The key takeaway: "Your faith will never rise above your hope."

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

- Hebrews 11:1
- 1 John 5:14-15
- Romans 1:16
- Romans 10:14-17
- 1 Peter 3:15-16
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- John 14:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART 1: THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS (10-15 minutes)

1. Reality Check:

On a scale of 1-10, how much do you currently expect God to use you to lead someone to Christ? Be honest. What influences your answer?

2. Hope vs. Faith:

The sermon stated: "Your faith will never rise above your hope, and your hope will never rise above your vision." What does this mean to you personally? Can you think of an area in your life where low hope has limited your faith?

3. Barriers:

What are the biggest barriers that keep you from sharing the gospel? (Fear of rejection, feeling inadequate, not knowing what to say, caring too much about what people think, etc.)

PART 2: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL (10-15 minutes)

4. God's Heart:

Read 1 John 5:14-15 together. How does knowing God's will give us confidence in prayer? How certain are you that God wants people saved?

5. The Andrew Wommack Illustration:

Pastor shared how Andrew Wommack realized God cares MORE about lost people than we do. How does this shift your perspective on evangelism? Does it change how you pray?

6. Prayer Patterns:

The early church prayed for boldness, open doors, and clarity—not for God to move, but for God to work through them. How is this different from how we typically pray? What would change if we adopted this pattern?

PART 3: OVERCOMING FEAR (10-15 minutes)

7. The Real Problem:

Pastor said, "We care more about what people think than what the Holy Spirit is saying." Do you agree? Share a time when fear of people's opinions stopped you from sharing your faith.

8. 1 Peter 3:15-16:

Read this passage together. What stands out to you about HOW we're supposed to share (gentle, respectful, with a clear conscience)? How does this relieve pressure?

9. The Time Traveler Illustration:

If you knew the Bay Bridge was going to collapse, you'd warn people even if they mocked you. How does this illustration help you think differently about sharing the gospel?

PART 4: THE GOSPEL MESSAGE (10-15 minutes)

10. Clarity on the Gospel:

In your own words, how would you explain the gospel to someone who has never heard it? (Let 2-3 people share)

11. Why Jesus Alone?:

Why is Jesus the only way to salvation? How would you respond to someone who says, "All religions lead to God"?

12. Eternal Reality:

How does believing in a real heaven and real hell affect your urgency to share the gospel? Should it?

PART 5: GETTING YOUR HOPES UP (10-15 minutes)

13. Renewing Your Mind:

What truths about God do you need to meditate on to raise your hope? (Examples: God is loving, God is willing, God is able, God wants to use me)

14. Vision:

Can you see your family members saved? Your coworkers? Your neighbors? If not, what's blocking your vision? How can this group pray for you?

15. Practical Obedience:

When was the last time you actually shared the gospel with someone? What happened? If it's been a while, what needs to change?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Write these down and keep them visible this week:

1. Hope is the foundation for faith. If you can't see it, you won't believe for it.
2. God is not reluctant to save people. He's already willing—we're the limiting factor.
3. Stop praying for revival; start living in obedience. Pray for boldness, open doors, and clarity.
4. The power is in the gospel, not in you. You don't have to be perfect—just faithful.
5. Your words matter. Faith comes by hearing. Someone needs to hear from you.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

OPTION 1: Prayer

Pray daily using the New Testament pattern:

- "God, give me boldness to speak."
- "God, open a door for conversation."
- "God, give me the right words."

OPTION 2: Preparation

Write out your testimony in 2-3 minutes. Practice sharing it with someone in your group or family.

OPTION 3: Action

Ask God to bring ONE person across your path this week. When He does, be ready to share your hope.

OPTION 4: Study

Memorize one key gospel verse (like John 3:16, Romans 3:23, or 2 Corinthians 5:21) so you're ready when the opportunity comes.

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY

Partner Up:

Pair up with one other person in the group. Exchange contact info and commit to:

- Praying for each other daily this week
- Checking in mid-week about opportunities to share
- Celebrating any gospel conversations at next week's meeting

Share Next Week:

Come ready to share one story of how God opened a door, gave you boldness, or used you to plant a seed.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Question for Silent Reflection:

"If I truly believed God wanted to use me to reach people, what would I do differently this week?"

(Give 1-2 minutes of silence)

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for the gospel and for saving us
- Ask God to raise our hope and expectation

- Pray for boldness to speak
- Pray for specific people in our lives who need Jesus
- Ask for open doors this week

Group Prayer:

Have each person pray one sentence asking God to use them this week.

LEADER NOTES

Facilitate, Don't Lecture:

Your role is to guide conversation, not teach another sermon. Let people wrestle with the questions.

Create Safety:

Some people feel deep shame about not sharing their faith. Create a grace-filled environment where honesty is welcomed.

Keep It Moving:

Don't let one question dominate the whole time. If discussion stalls, move forward.

End on Hope:

Make sure the group leaves encouraged and expectant, not condemned. The goal is to raise hope, not increase guilt.

Follow Up:

Text your group mid-week to encourage them and remind them of their commitments.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For Further Study:

- Read the book of Acts, chapters 2-4, noting how the early church shared the gospel
- Study Romans 1:16-17 and Romans 10:9-17
- Watch or read testimonies of people coming to Christ to build your faith

Remember: The world doesn't need more opinions or self-help. They need Jesus. And God wants to use YOU to share Him.