

# Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 29, 2023

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## ***Ephesians 2:11-14 – Finding Hope***

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Share a time you had high hopes for something, and it came true.
- How did you feel when your hope became realized?

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

### MAIN POINT

***When we place our hope in God, we will never be disappointed.***

### DIGGING INTO THE WORD

- In what ways do you see people searching for hope in our world today?
- Would you say that, in general, our world seems to be hopeful or hopeless?
- Have you ever hoped for something, and been disappointed? How did that make you feel? What did you learn from that experience?

#### **Read – Ephesians 2:11-14**

- Why do you think Paul said the Ephesians had NO HOPE without Christ?
- In what ways do people today, who are without Christ, have NO HOPE?

#### **Read – Romans 5:3-5**

- What is the hope that Paul says will NOT DISAPPOINT?

- Have you ever prayed for something that didn't come to pass? How did that make you feel? Did you doubt God's love for you?
- What is the danger of thinking God's love for us is attached to Him giving us what we want?
- What is the difference between hoping God will give us what we want, and just hoping in God?

### **Read – Jeremiah 18:11-12**

- In these verses, what were the Israelites choosing to place their hope in?
- Though we may not say it outright, like the Israelites did, how can we make a similar choice in our lives?

### **Read – Isaiah 55:1-3**

- What was the behavior of these people that God called into question?
- Have you ever worked hard for something that did not satisfy?
- How can we protect ourselves from making those same mistakes in the future?

Pastor Paul said hoping in God is connected to being near to God.

- At what point in your life did you feel closest to God? What were some of the circumstances that surrounded that closeness to God? Are any of those things repeatable for you now or in your future?
- Share any suggestions you have on what works for you to get close to God.

## **PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS**

Take some time each week to share prayer requests and praise reports. Have someone in your group record these prayer requests and email them out to the whole group to be praying for each other throughout the week. Close with a time of prayer.