

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Behold
Message Title: Behold Hope
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: December 10, 2017



from the Groups
Leadership Team

UP NEXT

- **Behold The Lamb of God** - The Worship Team invites you to come out this coming Friday night, December 15th to hear them perform the story of Christmas in song. Bring a friend and enjoy a great night of music. This free concert begins at 6:30pm.
- **re|engage** - Beginning January 16th. Only a few more weeks to register for re|engage and it's filling up! In case you're wondering if you should go, just ask yourself do you want better communication skills with your spouse? Do you want to stop repeatedly arguing about little stuff? Do you want clear expectations? You can. Visit reality.church/reengage.
- **Financial Peace University** - Also starting in January is our next Financial Peace University class. Mark your calendars. If your Life Group would like to take it together on your normal meeting night, in your normal meeting spot, you can do so. Please email robert.conn@reality.church for more information.
- **Christmas Eve Services** - Join us at one of our Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24th. Service times will be 9:00am, 10:45am, 3:00pm, and 4:30pm.
- **Life Groups Christmas break** - Of course your group can meet as often as you like during this month but this week will be the last set of Discussion Questions sent out until we resume Life Groups the week of January 7th.

MAIN IDEA

There is no brokenness in your life that is outside of the Hope of Christmas!

INTRODUCTION

- Think about this... Hope does not exist in a perfect world. A perfect world would have no need for the concept of hope. Nothing would be hoped for. It would all be a present Reality.
- Therefore, since hope does perfectly exist in our world, this is a reminder that this world is not perfect and there are times when we are all in need of true hope.
- Hope only exists because hopelessness is real.

DISCUSSION

- How would you define Hopelessness?
- C.S. Lewis has a great quote about Hope in *Mere Christianity*.
 - *"Hope... means... a continual looking forward to the eternal world... It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in"; aim at earth and you will get neither."*
- What does he mean by aiming at Heaven verses aiming at earth?

- What was the main difference between how a believer would ‘hope’ during Old Testament days verses how they would hope after Jesus?
- Think about this, Christmas is at the end of the year. When everyone is tired. When it’s cold and dark outside. When we’ve spent too much money on others and not enough time with God. Why then is it important for people to find hope during the Christmas season?
- Do you know anyone who might be hopeless this Christmas?
- Have someone read [\(Romans 5:3-5\)](#)
 - What does it mean that this ‘hope’ will not lead to disappointment? (*You’re version may say “put us to shame”*)
 - We should hope as Christians during present sufferings not because they are pleasant. But because they produce a step-by-step transformation that makes us more like Jesus.
- Have someone read [\(Romans 15:13\)](#)
 - By the way, this is a great Scripture to memorize! Challenge yourself to commit this verse to memory over Christmas.
 - How can we be a people who overflow with confident hope?

APPLY IT

- Reinterpret your own story.
 - Are you going through life wishing or hoping?
 - *Wishing* is denying true reality, however *hoping* is viewing reality correctly based on the sure promises of God. In other words, believing that which we know to be true.

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RECOMMENDED CHRISTMAS RESOURCE

A THRILL OF HOPE - by Andy Stanley



Do you remember as a child what it was like enduring those days before Christmas? It was the anticipation that made Christmas, Christmas. That same dynamic is what made the first Christmas so extraordinary. For generations, men and women had been waiting anxiously for the birth of their Messiah, with no assurance that they would live to see him. And like us, they probably wondered, Is this really going to happen? After all, God has been silent for years? Has he forgotten about us?

Do you have those same doubts? Do you feel like God even knows you exist? Do you wonder if it's worth it to follow Christ?

In *The Thrill of Hope*, Andy Stanley makes the case that the Christmas story is your story.

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