

Looking for a Group to connect and dive deeper in your relationship with God and others? Contact Community Pastor, Beth Yokley, at byokley@myhope.church.



Discussion Questions With Emily LeVault

Be Real: Week 3

Matthew 23:16-22

Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for prioritizing rules over relationships (e.g., valuing gold/offerings over the altar itself). How have you seen this kind of misplaced focus play out in your own life or in church culture?

What might it look like for Hope Church to prioritize "the altar" (God's presence) over "the gold" (external measures of success)?

The Pharisees created loopholes to avoid accountability (e.g., swearing by the temple vs. the gold). Where do you feel tempted to justify halfhearted commitments to God or others? How can our small group support one another in living with integrity instead of excuses?

Jesus says, "You blind guides!"—a strong rebuke against hypocrisy. When have you felt the tension between wanting to appear spiritually "together" versus being honest about your struggles?

How can Hope Church cultivate spaces where authenticity is valued over appearances?

The passage highlights how vows reveal what we truly value. What promises or commitments (to God, family, or community) do you find hardest to keep? Why? How might reorienting our focus on Christ's faithfulness strengthen our follow-through?