

# Hope in Action

## Dre Burgs

### TALK IT OVER

#### Key Scriptures

*So prepare your minds for **action** and exercise self-control. Put all your **hope** in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.* 1 Peter 1:13-14 NLT

*They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.* Nehemiah 1:3-4 NLT

*... "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me ... They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.* Nehemiah 2:17-18 NLT

*"I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down."* Nehemiah 6:3 ESV

#### Key Points

1. Define the problem.
2. Diligently seek God.
3. Do the work.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Fill in the blank. This next year, I hope to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Have you ever kept a New Year's Resolution? How?

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Fill in the blanks with a few scenarios you face regularly. I want \_\_\_\_\_ now, but I want \_\_\_\_\_ most.
- What do you think most often keeps you from accomplishing your hopes?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Read 1 Peter 1:13-14. What are some old ways you plan to not slip back into this year?
- Pastor Dre said you can't defeat what you don't define. What do you need to define and defeat?
- Are there any excuses you make that may be holding you back?
- Share about a hope that by God's grace you have seen become a reality. What did it take to get there?

**Start Praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

God, without You, we can't get anything done. We can't pull ourselves up by our bootstraps or fix anything. Will You help us to see the problems we face? We ask You to meet us as we diligently go after You this year. Empower us to do the work You set out for us. We pray this in the name of Jesus! Amen.

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What specific actions do you need to take to diligently seek God and do the work to accomplish your hopes for this year?
- Who can you ask to come alongside you?
- Where in my life can others see that I am following Jesus more closely?
- Am I finding joy in serving my church in a meaningful way? Why?
- What have I done lately to "build a bridge" for the purpose of sharing the gospel?