

Discussion Guide (September 17, 2023)

Bryan Bicket

Message: *A Godly Hope* (Series: *Anchor of Hope*)

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Hebrews 6:9-15 (NIV): *9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. 13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.*

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV): *1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.*

Genesis 22:5-8, 15-18 (NIV): *5 He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together... 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- God Wants to Anchor Your Soul by Giving You a Godly Hope
- Godly Hope is Offered in God’s Promises
- Godly Hope is Rooted in God’s Character
- Godly Hope is Experienced in Faithful Obedience to God’s Commands

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the message, Bryan said that hope is a powerful motivator and that false hope ends in the same result as no hope. What have been some things you’ve put your hope in that have let you down in the past? What are some things you are tempted to put your hope in today?
2. The writer of Hebrews warns his readers about neglecting their faith in Jesus and encourages them to imitate those who have faithfully followed God as they have waited for their eternal inheritance. As you look at Abraham’s life, what stands out to you about both his obedience and disobedience to God and his commands? What stands out to you about God’s faithfulness in light of Abraham’s actions?

3. In what ways are you most tempted to try and realize your own dreams and plans for your life rather than leaning into God's promises and plans for your life? What might be something you are subconsciously thinking God has promised you that he hasn't?
4. Godly hope is *offered* in God's promises, *rooted* in God's character, and *experienced* in faithful obedience to God's commands. God wants to anchor your soul by giving you a godly hope that is built through a faith that is tested, tried, and true. In what ways is your faith being tested right now? How can you put your hope more fully in Jesus, his work on the cross, and his love and presence with and for you? In what ways do you want the Holy Spirit to help you imitate the faith and obedience of Abraham?

God, thank you for the gift of hope. Thank you that we don't have to go through this life with merely wishful thinking or uncertainty about our eternal inheritance if we truly put our hope in Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness to us even when we aren't faithful to you. Let us not take your grace for granted, but daily live in obedience to you out of that grace! Anchor our souls and strengthen our faith in you this week as we rest in the hope you bring. Amen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Why Did God Ask Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac?
<https://bibleproject.com/articles/why-did-god-ask-abraham-to-sacrifice-isaac/>
- Crowder - The Anchor - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cve0AZtyU38>