



STUDY GUIDE – January 3, 2021

Message Series: Reconstruct
Message Title: Trust in God
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Although it's just begun, name a blessing from 2021.

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to go into this new year in awe of who You are. Help us to feel your tangible presence, in those moments of both weeping and rejoicing. Let our time here be a reflection for healing and growth. Increase our faith, as we trust in You alone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started:

- Who was the spiritual leader who first connected you to faith in Jesus? A preacher, youth pastor, small group leader?
- Who have been the spiritual authorities who've been important in your journey in following Jesus?

“When you follow a spiritual leader for guidance in your spiritual life, on the surface, this isn't a bad thing. In fact, it's necessary. I do it. Most of you do it too. We lean into those who are farther along in their journey, seem to be closer with God, more attuned to His voice. And we say things like, “I know he's just human.” You can distinguish between God - who is perfect - and another follower of God, who, in theory, is not. Right? What is a clear distinction between God and God's servant in your mind today can become blurry over time until you're not just following a person's wisdom or guidance or biblical knowledge, but over time some people forget that humans are fallible until - without consciously deciding to do it - we make our future faith contingent on this spiritual leader's...good behavior...moral decisions...right living.”
- Pastor Brian Hughes

Watch and Discuss Video:

Read Psalm 146.

- This Psalm lists several things that God does. What are those things?
Which ones are things that God can do but man cannot?
How does the truth that God is able to do these things earn our trust?

“Our focus has to be unequivocally on Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 4:18, it says to fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal. In other words, our focus isn't on people like ourselves whom we can see. Our focus is on God, who can't be seen. People are temporary in our lives; they come and go for moments and seasons; they're born, and they die. God is eternal. We can't see him, but he is eternal and always present.” - Pastor Angie Frame

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5.

- What does this verse say about the role of spiritual leaders in our lives?
- How can we keep our focus on Jesus instead of on people? What does this look like practically in our lives?

Reflect and Commit:

“When you put your trust in a human being’s behavior as the deciding factor for your faith, you are in trouble, you just don’t know it yet. I remind you that our faith is not in a human being, it’s in God alone... In the past few years, I’ve watched and cried and yelled and, yes, cussed once or twice, at the gut-wrenching news of another spiritual leader who drove their lives - and their ministries - over a cliff... but even while we weep and even while we question and even when we’re disillusioned and even in our loss, we can stand on the truth about God - that he weeps with us, that his light shines in the darkness, that he breathes life where there is no life.”

- Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Psalm 18:28.

- In what area of your life do you need God to turn darkness into light?

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to fix our eyes on You. We desire a faith that will have staying power. You shine light in the darkness and set us free. You heal our broken hearts. Help us to stand on Your truths and build our trust on You alone. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.