

# “HOPE FOR THE WORLD”

October 1st/2nd 2016 | Pastor Matt McGill | Anchored Series

## INTRODUCTION

In our “Anchored” sermon series, we are investigating the various ways that our hope is an anchor for our souls.\* The anchor of our hope, not only provides us with a firm and secure foundation, it also offers that same benefit to the world, if we will extend it. But how do we share our hope with the world? This study identifies three things that we can do to offer hope to a world that so desperately needs it. *\*Hebrews 6:18*

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

What is one recent news item that you would consider hopeful news?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Cultivate a HEART of compassion.**

#### **Q1. Read Luke 19:10; John 3:16-18; Luke 15:11-32**

Without God’s intervention, none of us would have hope. Briefly, what is one seemingly hopeless situation that God has delivered you from? Now consider how you would have felt without God to rescue you from despair. Can you think of one person in your family or circle of friends who is not yet saved? That person still faces desperate situations without God. In Luke 15 Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son. What was the reaction of the brother in verses 29 -30 when the prodigal returned? What was the reaction of the father? (verses 20, 31-32) Our heavenly Father is compassionate toward his lost children, and we can choose to be compassionate like the father or resentful and judgmental like the brother. What would you say is your greatest barrier to offering hope to your unsaved friend or family member?

### **Demonstrate an ATTITUDE of acceptance.**

#### **Q2. Read Matthew 9:10-13; Luke 6:36-38, 41-42; Ephesians 2:11-13**

Some of us have experienced a culture of guilt, shame and rejection. In Matthew 9:11 the Pharisees asked why Jesus associated with sinners. What was his reply? Not only was He extending mercy to the sinners, He desired that his followers also show mercy. How did Jesus reinforce this idea in Luke 6:36? What do verses 37 and 38 specifically tell us to do and not do? We cannot extend hope to the world if we do not first accept them. How do you make a person feel genuinely accepted without approving of their ungodly behavior?

### **Communicate with a LIFESTYLE of service.**

#### **Q3. Read Matthew 25:35-37, 40; Luke 23:33-34a; Matthew 5:16**

It has been said that we are the “hands and feet of Jesus” to the world around us. From Matthew 25:35-36, what practical acts of service will we be rewarded for? We don’t want to overlook the power of prayer to bring hope to someone in need of it. Who do you know that needs prayer for a hopeless situation? If appropriate, pray for them with your group. We have the honor and responsibility to represent Christ to the world. Encourage each other now by sharing how you have observed the servant-based character of Christ reflected in the life of one of your group members? How does that instill hope in you?

## Wrap-Up

The world desperately needs God’s message of hope, a hope that we have to share. We can bring that hope when we remember how God met our own needs and choose to cultivate a heart of compassion for those who are yet without hope. To those who have experienced rejection and judgment, we can demonstrate an attitude of acceptance rather than condemnation. And as we live a lifestyle of service, we communicate God’s character in such a way that it points people to Jesus and the hope of eternal life in Him.

### **Memory Verse**

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2: 13 NIV*

### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Challenge: The acts of service mentioned in Matthew 25 are represented in local ministries such as Captive Hearts (prison), Peoples Kitchen (food), Crisis Care kits (clothed). Choose one of these (or others) to contribute to or participate in this week.*

**Q1**

Luke 19:10 ESV - 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

John 3:16-18 ESV - 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Read Luke 15:11-32 in your Bible

**Q2**

Matthew 9:10-13 ESV - 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Luke 6:36-38, 41-42 ESV - 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." ... 41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Ephesians 2:11-13 NIV - 11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)-- 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of

the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**Q3**

Luke 23:33-34a NIV - When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." ...

Matthew 25:35-37, 40 NIV - 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ... 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 5:16 NIV - 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Prayers Con't:** \_\_\_\_\_

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