

STUDY GUIDE



LET HOPE IN

DUTCHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET HOPE IN
HOPE EXPRESSED
PSALM 138:1-8
07/24/2016

MAIN POINT

Gratitude is our response to the hope we have in Christ.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Were you able to memorize Hebrews 11:6 this week? Say it together as a group.

What are some ways you entered into God's celebration this week?

Were you able to talk with anyone else about God's pursuit of them and celebrate with them that we can be in right relationship with Him? Who?

We have seen the source of true hope and even seen examples of what it looks like when hope comes into someone's life. In this week's session, we will examine another result of a hope-filled life—gratitude. Gratitude is our response to the hope we have in Christ.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

WATCH THE VIDEO SEGMENT FOR SESSION 4 FEATURING PETE WILSON.

This week's session was about gratitude, the expression of hope. What are some things you are particularly grateful for this week?

AS A GROUP, READ PSALM 138:1-8.

What do you think the tone of this psalm is? What was David feeling when he wrote it?

What specifically was David responding to with gratitude?

What are some of the things that might keep us from responding to God with gratitude?

What do you think is the relationship between hope and gratitude? How do those things work together?

How can the absence of one make us lose the other?

There are so many things that get in the way of gratitude. Things like resentment, unmet expectations, broken dreams all can get in the way. But in this psalm, David made the choice to be grateful.

Why is it important to know that gratitude is not a feeling but a choice?

Is there any situation in your life this week making it difficult for you to be grateful?

Pete told us that when we begin to shift our focus off of God and onto ourselves, we develop a sense of entitlement. Why is entitlement so damaging to our relationship with God?

Why is an entitled heart never a grateful heart? What are some ways we can fight against a sense of entitlement in our lives?

How do you think your perspective on life would change if you made the choice to live a lifestyle of gratitude?

Because gratitude is a choice, we can recognize that everything good we have comes from the goodness and faithfulness of God. That means in any situation we can be grateful because our gratitude is not based on how good our situation is but our perspective on that situation.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Is there anything you feel entitled to from God right now? Confess it to the group so we can pray for each other.

What are some practical ways we can make the choice of gratitude this week?

Do you think you have gotten too used to the goodness of God? Why? How can you remind yourself of His goodness every day this week?

PRAY

Pray to close your group. Spend time in prayer thanking God for His goodness and faithfulness and asking Him to help you live a lifestyle of gratitude.

Visit lifeway.com to purchase the Bible study book for more in-depth individual and group study.

COMMENTARY

PSALM 138:1-8

138:1 On before the heavenly beings, or “before the gods.”138:2 Constant love translates the Hebrew word chesed. The fulfillment of God’s promises surpasses all previous revelation.

138:4-5 The universal outlook of the psalmist reflects a fairly new understanding for David—that all the kings on earth would someday worship the Lord (22:27-28). Solomon came to know it (72:11; 2Ch 6:33), and it was spoken through the prophets (Isa 2:1-4; Rev 21:24).

138:6 From heaven (14:2; 33:13; 34:15; 102:19; 113:5; Isa 57:15), God stoops to act on behalf of the downtrodden (humble), but He withholds assistance from those who are haughty or arrogant.