

STUDY GUIDE



LET HOPE IN

DUTCHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET HOPE IN
HOPE SHARED
ACTS 3:1-10
08/07/2016

MAIN POINT

After finding hope in Christ, we must share it with others.

INTRODUCTION

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

Were you able to speak with anyone about the restored hope you have in Christ this week?

How were you able to create that sense of dependence on Jesus we talked about last week?

Think back over the course of our study. What would you say is your biggest takeaway from this study about hope?

In this, our last session of this series, we will see the culmination of hope in our lives. When we find hope in Christ, we are not meant to keep it to ourselves. Instead, the hope we have found in Jesus is meant to be shared with others. When we do that, we can actually become a conduit of hope into the life of another.

UNDERSTANDING

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

WATCH THE VIDEO SEGMENT FOR SESSION 6 FEATURING PETE WILSON.

AS A GROUP, READ ACTS 3:1-10.

Put yourself in the place of the beggar. What do you think your life would have been like?

Why was this man in need of hope?

Peter and John were able to share their hope and, as Pete said, sharing our hope is part of letting hope in. Why is that the case?

Why is it important to share your hope if you are letting hope into your life?

How have you seen your own hope change when you are willing to share your hope with someone else?

Think back over your life. Can you remember a time when someone shared hope with you? What was happening in your life at that time? How did you respond?

Pete reminded us that our lives have been shaped by two primary groups of people—those who have hurt us and those who have loved us. The implication is that we have a tremendous amount of influence over those in our lives.

Who are some of the people God has given you influence over? Are you using that influence to shape them for good? How do you know?

What are some of the things keeping you from sharing your hope with others right now?

Is there room in your schedule to stop and meet people in the midst of their need like Peter and John did?

What is the result when we share hope with others?

How does our hope end with God receiving glory?

Like Pete said, when we breathe out hope a chain reaction occurs. The end result is people find the true hope that can only be had in Christ.

APPLICATION

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

How are you going to make sure you can see others' need for hope? What needs to change about your schedule to make that happen?

What is one significant change in perspective that this study has brought about in your life?

If someone asked you about our group, what would you tell them? How has it made a difference in your life?

PRAY

Pray to close your group thanking God that He is the source of hope. Ask Him to help you be aware of the needs of others so that you might share your hope with them.

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

COMMENTARY

3:1. One day Peter and John were going up to the temple. The account does not indicate how soon after Pentecost this event took place. The imperfect tense indicates this was a daily, on-going action. The Jews observed three special hours for prayer: 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. Many people came to the temple courts to pray at those times. Evidently, the early Jerusalem disciples continued to observe these prayer times. Their purpose, in addition to prayer, may have been to witness to the large crowds present in the temple during those hours. In the early part of Acts, Peter and John often are found together (3:1,4,11; 4:13,19; 8:14). Typically, Peter did the speaking while John remained in the background.

3:2-3. As Peter and John made their way to the temple, they passed by a man crippled from birth who was sitting at the temple gate called Beautiful, the precise location of which is uncertain. The man was carried there each day to beg from those going into the temple courts. His very existence depended upon the donations of concerned people. As Peter and John approached the gate and prepared to enter the temple, the man saw them. The word translated saw also can mean perceived. Perhaps the man noticed something about Peter and John that made them stand out from others entering and leaving the temple. At any rate, he asked them for money. Over and over each day the man asked for benevolent donations. Usually, donors would simply flip a coin in the man's direction, hardly even noticing him.

3:4. Having stopped immediately, Peter and John looked straight at him. The Greek verb literally means gazed. The two disciples could have passed the man many times before, seeing a beggar rather than a person who was begging. At this point, both of them fixed their total attention on this man. Evidently, the beggar avoided eye contact with the people from whom he begged. Peter commanded—Look at us!

3:5. Possibly expecting an unusually large donation, the man gave them his attention. What he expected to get from them, however, was far from what he actually received. God was preparing him to receive a blessing far greater than he had dreamed.

3:6. After getting the man's undivided attention, Peter said to him, Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. Those words dashed the man's hope for a significant sum of money. Maybe he thought Peter and John were about to share some food with him. During Jesus' earthly ministry, He performed many acts of healing. When Peter declared, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk, he was declaring Jesus' power to continue healing.

3:7. We can describe what happened next only as a healing miracle. Peter took the man by the right hand and helped him up. At this point the man needed some encouragement. He never had walked, and Peter had called him to take a literal step of faith. Peter understood this, so he reached out and took the man's hand in an encouraging gesture. When he did, immediately the man felt a surge of strength flow into his feet and ankles. The word translated became strong literally means made firm. The man experienced a stability he never before had felt.

3:8. Jumping to his feet, the man began to walk, moving with Peter and John into the temple. Before this day the man had sat at the entrance to the place of worship, but he could not enter. Physically impaired, he could not gain access to the temple (Lev. 21:17-20). Having been physically healed, he could enter the house of worship. The man entered the temple walking and jumping, and praising God. The Greek word translated jumping is used in the Greek translation of Isaiah 35:6, referring to the messianic age: "Then will the lame leap like a deer." His jumping validated that the messianic age had dawned with Jesus' coming. The man also praised God. He recognized God had acted in his life, and he wanted to give God the glory.

3:9-10. All the people in the temple observed the man's actions. How could they not see him? Any of us would notice someone entering God's house jumping and praising the Lord. God had touched his life profoundly, and he worshiped the Lord with great joy. The people recognized him as the beggar who always was sitting at the temple gate. They were filled with wonder and amazement. As a result they ran toward the man, seeking to understand how this had come to be. More important the people's gathering together provided Peter another opportunity to preach Jesus. Genuine miracles always point people to Christ and the necessity for personal faith in Him.