



Small Group Guide | **Week 6**

## Hope of the Church

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### Review: Hope of Salvation *(5–10 minutes)*

- The word salvation means being rescued from something. Wright says that in biblical terms, salvation means saved from something and for something. What do you think we are saved from and saved for?
- When God created the world, He put people here to reflect his image and wise order. What can believers do to reflect the presence and image of God into this broken world?
- Whether or not you are memorizing the scripture, recite together the suggested memory verse: Romans 15:13 NIV “ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” For any who have memorized part or all of the verse, recite it to your small group. What other verses would you like to memorize as a result of this study or otherwise?

### Watch

#### Week 6 Video | Hope for the Church

[Session Video](#) *(16 minutes)*

### Read these Scripture passages aloud:

#### **Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

#### **Micah 6:8 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

## **1 Corinthian 15:58 NIV**

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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## *Head*

### **What is the Hope for the Church?** (5–10 minutes)

Summarize 3–5 points of the message of this video.

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## *Heart*

### **Reacting to the Hope for the Church** (10–15 minutes)

1. Wright says that God will affirm and transform as good everything in this present world that bears the mark of Him, even things that we may consider insignificant. What are some of the “little things” that often go unnoticed but may be valuable building blocks for God’s kingdom now and forever? Based on this, are you encouraged? Explain.
2. Were you surprised by the emphasis that Wright placed on justice and beauty? What do you think about the connection between justice and beauty and evangelism? How is FPC doing with justice, beauty, and evangelism?
3. Wright says that the world ought to be able to get a glimpse of the new creation, the new things God is doing when they look at the Church. When the world looks at FPC, do they get a glimpse of the new creation? Why or why not? What changes should we work toward so it does reflect more the new creation?

## *Hands*

### **Living the Hope for the Church** (10–15 minutes)

*We continue to consider: as people of the hope, having confidence in the hope of the Church, how can we be moved to action and bring hope right where we live today? What are some practical implications for our world, our community, and our lives? How is Jesus our model?*

1. *Paul tells us that our “labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58. What are some things that cause us to become discouraged as we serve God, seek justice, and celebrate beauty? What can encourage us to keep giving ourselves fully to God’s work, even when we feel discouraged?*
2. *God does not expect us to do everything, but He does expect us to do our particular part in His work in this world. What is one way that God has gifted you to contribute to His plan for the Church and the world? How can you use this giftedness to bring new creation joy and hope to:*
  - *Your family*
  - *Your work*
  - *Your neighborhood*
  - *Your church*
  - *Anywhere else you go regularly*
3. *As we conclude this study, think of an activity for your small group to enjoy beauty. It may be a walk over to one of the nearby museums after church, attend a symphony or a play together, or take a trip to botanical gardens. After the activity, debrief about how you experienced beauty and whether you sensed God’s presence.*

## Conclusion

### *For Those Reading the Book During this Study*

*Chapters 13-15 correspond to this week’s video.*

“The revolutionary new world, which began in the resurrection of Jesus, the world where Jesus reigns as Lord, having won the victory over sin and death - has its frontline outposts in those who in baptism have shared his death and resurrection.”

### *Closing Prayer*

Almighty God, we are humbled that You take our little contributions and use them for kingdom causes. Holy Spirit, empower us to be active and to abound in the work of the Lord with prayer, hard work, and compassion. Continue to impress upon us the learnings from this study. Jesus, You are our role model and savior. We want to follow You in all things. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Congratulations for memorizing Romans 15:13 NIV!

#### **Romans 15:13 NIV**

**13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Memory Tip:** To keep the verse fresh in your mind, recite to others from time to time and/or use any of the memory tips given in previous weeks. Think about other Scriptures to memorize such as 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV. “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”