



## Life Group Sermon Study Notes

### “Let’s Talk: H.O.P.E”

Dr. Rice Brooks – March 15, 2020

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What’s your favorite inexpensive “go to” meal?
- What’s your most used emoji?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

#### **Psalms 91:1-6 ESV**

*<sup>1</sup>He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*<sup>2</sup>I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

Our nation is experiencing unprecedented times in the wake of COVID-19. On top of that, Nashville is experiencing challenging times due to the recent tornado. Everyone is looking for answers; everyone is looking for hope. Dr. Rice used the word hope as an acronym to share the answers that are found in scripture:

#### **H - Hearing**

With so much uncertainty, where do we go for answers? Doctors, hospital workers, government workers and countless others are making great strides to reduce the impact from calamity. Yet there is a mitigating power that’s available to followers of Christ that will not only give hope in the wake of current events, but also eternal hope.

As believers, this is a time to maximize our faith in the power of God. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

## **O - Openness**

When we experience challenging times, God is able to use it to open our hearts to respond anew to the Gospel. This is a moment for believers to preach and live out the Gospel like never before. People want to talk. We have an open door to be the mouthpiece, hands and feet of Jesus.

## **P - Prayer**

Prayer is not a magic formula. It is a way of drawing close to God; getting strength and assurance that God is with us. One of the most powerful ways to pray is to pray scripture – more specifically the psalms. In Psalm 91, we are reminded that God protects his people in times of crisis. When we pray scripture, we can be confident God will rescue those who trust in his name.

## **E- Encourage**

*Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Hebrews 3:13).* An amazing thing happens when you encourage someone else in the faith. You end up encouraging yourself too. When we feed faith through the Word of God, we maximize the promises of God over fear.

May we be encouraged that the name of Jesus is more powerful than any calamity. We are not minimizing the threat, but holding on to faith that God is able to turn tragedy into victory through Christ. Let's cloth ourselves in H.O.P.E. knowing that God can use these unprecedented times to bring his people and all of humanity closer to him.

## **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- How can you devote more time in your daily schedule to reading the Word?
- Are you in the habit of encouraging others and yourself daily in the Lord?
- How can you be a blessing to others during these difficult times?

## **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.**

- Thank God that he is mighty to save and deliver his people.
- Ask God for compassion to reach out with the Gospel to those experiencing sickness and challenges during these times.
- Ask God to turn this time of calamity into a time of spiritual revival.