

Small Group Discussion Guide

Hope Starts Here: For the week of March 22 - 28, 2020

Main Thought and Scripture:

We live in unprecedented times. Uncertainty and fear are on everyone's minds. How do we live with hope amid crisis to be the Church and to give hope to others? Ultimately, hope starts with us. In the Bible, the disciples were about to face a major crisis. Jesus was soon to be arrested and crucified as a criminal. They were about to face persecution, arrest, and death. To prepare them, Jesus gave them lasting truths that we can apply to our current crisis as well.

"A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:32-33)

1. God is with us.

"Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me." Jesus knew that even though He would be, arrested, isolated, and crucified, that God would always be with Him. We too need to hold on to the same truth, that *"God will never leave nor forsake us."* (Heb. 13:5)

2. God brings us peace.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace." Peace that dispels fear is found in Jesus. Therefore, we must abide in His Word which gives us His promises and perspective. Peace also comes through prayer. As we bring our burdens to God, peace comes to our hearts when we allow God to take control. Our responsibility is to pray, God is responsible for the results.

3. Trials are a reality in a fallen world.

Jesus reminds us that *"in this world, you will have trouble."* Christians should not be shocked at the brokenness of this world due to sin. God is not the cause of calamity, but He will use it to bring about His purposes. Sin is the cause of all disaster, death, and disease which is why the only answer is the gospel. Therefore...

4. We must find hope in Jesus and give hope away to others.

"But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus' guidance to us amid this fallen world and the crises that abound is to find our hope in the gospel and to give hope away to others. Now is the time for the Church to arise and give hope away to our neighbors.

Reflection:

- Which of the above truths do you find most meaningful to you right now? Why?

Application:

- What practical things will you do to grow in your faith during this crisis?
- What practical things can you do to give hope away to others? (For example: contact people to encourage and pray for them, offer to share supplies, find a way to serve someone in need, etc.)

Prayer:

- Pray for someone, by name, that you know that is struggling during this crisis that God would bring them relief and lead them to Jesus.
- Pray for the eradication and decimation of COVID-19 by God's power.
- Pray for unique strategies on how we can be a blessing to others during this crisis.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:

As of March 22, we're meeting online for Pearlside at Home. Following the recommendation of our national and local authorities to cancel large gatherings and prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), **we will no longer be meeting at any of our physical locations until further notice.** As information evolves, we want to make sure you have the most up to date information. Our website ([**pearlside.org/updates**](https://pearlside.org/updates)), App, and Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) will become places to access the most up-to-date information.

• HOW DO YOU ACCESS OUR STREAM ONLINE?

We will be streaming our services using YouTube and Facebook accounts. You can access the streams here:

[youtube.com/pearlsidechurch](https://www.youtube.com/pearlsidechurch)

[facebook.com/pearlsidechurch](https://www.facebook.com/pearlsidechurch)

• WE WILL GATHER ONLINE:

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 7:30am | 9:15am | 11:15am | 6:00pm | 7:45pm

We encourage you to gather your families, small groups, and friends to watch our services. Please subscribe if you haven't already done so. The sermon will also be available to view on Monday.