

## WHEN HOPE IS A ROPE

Steve Highfill, EFCA West Regional Director

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Acts 19:1-10

The Critical Role of Hope

The Sign Gift that Keeps on Giving

- The Principle of the Pebble in the Pond
- The Principle of the Air Traffic Controller
- The Principle of Newton's Third Law in Ministry

Six Marks of a Biblical Church:

1. Scriptural Authority
2. Biblical Leadership
3. Preaching and Teaching

4. Ordinances

5. Covenant Community)

6. Mission

In Conclusion, a Guaranteed Investment tip for Unmatched R.O.I.

The importance of the hyphen

### Next Steps

- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- I will apply my new understanding of "hope" to at least one area where I tend to be discouraged.
- I will look for three measurable evidences of the transformative power of the Gospel in my life this week.



Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to provide questions in abbreviated form each week for personal study and/or discussion for LifeGroups choosing to meet during a portion of the break.

**Lesson Aim:** To draw fresh strength and encouragement from the reality of God's presence and the certainty of God's promises.

1. In the message this weekend, Steve Highfill discussed the critical role that hope plays in our life journey, especially when we encounter difficulties and obstacles. Read Titus 2:11-15. What does Paul say the "blessed hope" is, and how does it relate to living life in a complicated world? What is the primary difference in the world's common view of hope and a biblical view of hope based on God's reliability?

2. Everyone welcomes reassurances that we are known and loved, especially in our relationship with God. Read John 20:24-29. Compare Thomas's outlook with the promise we have in Psalm 139 (especially verses 17-18).

3. Why did Steve call "the church," and specifically "The Bridge, the "sign gift that keeps on giving?" As you reflect on the essential role played by the Holy Spirit in creating and sustaining the miracle of the church, what can we learn and apply regarding the role He must be allowed to play in our personal and family lives?

4. None of us make it through life without encountering occasional conflict. How does a proper understanding of spiritual warfare (Steve called it Newton's Third Law in Ministry) help us properly view other people when there are difficulties in relationships?

5. Steve concluded with a "guaranteed investment tip." Re-read Romans 1:16-17. Identify one or several areas in your life where you are tempted to believe that change, or transformation (in you, in someone else, or in a circumstance) is impossible. Find several times this week to prayerfully reflect on the promises about the power of the Gospel, and consciously surrender (and re-surrender) your outlook to Jesus.

### Daily Devotional Plan – Take a closer look at the life of Jesus & the Early Church as we learn what it means to follow Him.

Day 1 – John 20

Day 2 – John 21

Day 3 – Acts 1

Day 4 – Acts 2

Day 5 – Acts 3

Day 6 – Acts 4

Day 7 - Acts 5