



## GROUP DISCUSSION

- ❑ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.
- ❑ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- ❑ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- ❑ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



## INTRODUCTION

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

# NECESSARY HOPE

We all know what it's like to be disappointed, to have someone break their promise. We also know what it's like for someone to be true to their word. The Bible is a story of God continually being true to His word. This gives us, as believers, hope and it's something we need in a world filled with broken promises and disappointment.

A life of faith needs hope. A life of faith, as Brennan Manning once wrote, requires trust to be convinced in the reliability of God.<sup>1</sup> That is, we need to believe that God *will* fulfill His promises. He is trustworthy and, as your group will discuss, He shows us that all of His promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Q: *Why is hope necessary in life?*



## DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

# A PROMISE FULFILLED

For years Abraham and Sarah have held on to hope that God would be true to His word. Finally, we see God’s promise being fulfilled in the birth of Isaac. As your group discusses this promise fulfilled in Genesis and Paul’s commentary on it in Romans, consider the ways God infuses your life with the hope that He is always true to His word.

🗣️: Have someone read Genesis 21:1-7. Abraham and Sarah were overjoyed at seeing God fulfill His promise. What are some practical ways to praise God for the ways He provides for you in your life?

🗣️: Share about a time when you hoped for something and you got it. What did you learn from that experience?

🗣️: Have someone read Romans 4:17-20. What are some practical ways you can increase your faith by giving glory to God?



## REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

# INCREASING YOUR FAITH WITH HOPE

The Bible gives us plenty of heroes to admire like Abraham. But, really, there’s only one true hero in the Bible – Jesus Christ. He is the One who ultimately fulfills all of God’s promises. He is the One that lets us “hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise” (Hebrews 10:23, NLT).

The gospel is the story of Jesus and it has the power to give us hope in a broken world and to persevere against all difficulties and disappointments. So, what does it look like to live by faith in the gospel? Let’s look at two important applications:

1. *Remember the past.* God's faithfulness in all generations gives you hope to believe that He will do the same for you. When we remember the past, we see what God has done and that gives us a glimpse into the future. He *will* continue to show up and work in our lives in unexpected ways that increase our faith.
2. *Look to Jesus, the true Hero.* A life of faith is a race and we can only make progress as long as our eyes are fixed on Jesus. He is the one true hero the Bible speaks of from Genesis to Revelation. To be like Him and run the race as He did in His life is our goal. So, let us model Him and the way He loved the Father, shared God's truth and gave Himself for the sake of others.

🕒: *Where do you want to see God show up and work in your life right now?*

🕒: *Name one thing you will do this week to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.*

🕒: *What's the best thing you can do to be a model of Jesus for others around you?*



## PRAY

Praise God that He is always true to His word, that He always fulfills His promises. Pray for the kind of trust that is convinced that God is reliable. Pray for your eyes to be fixed on Jesus and a heart that seeks to model His life for others.

### ENDNOTES:

1. Brennan Manning, *Ruthless Trust: The Ragamuffin's Path to God* (New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2010), 9.