

## BIG IDEA

To follow Jesus is to follow hope.

## KEY VERSE

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (**John 17:15,18**)

## SUMMARY

Church is the place where you come as you are and become who you were created to be. We gather around the Word of God, encounter the presence of God, and minister to each other as the people of God. Then, we are sent out to be hope carriers in every area of life (**Genesis 1:28**). Jesus came to be our hope; He came to us, we didn't have to go to Him (**Romans 5:5**).

God is calling us to move from being a church for the city to a church for the region. He's calling us to *arise*, to go to a new place with God. To bring light to darkness and hope to hopelessness (**Isaiah 60:1-3**). The human heart was never meant to be a container of despair.

## HOPE CARRIERS

Within you is a treasure chest of hope that is meant to shine (**Colossians 1:27**). Jesus came to restore our purpose as hope carriers so that we would have hope in our lives, and bring it to the world around us. We get to repair things that have been broken for generations (**Isaiah 61:1, 4**). God is calling us to submit and surrender, to rise up, to declare our Father's kingdom has come (**Revelation 11:15**). When we show up in the areas of life, we bring hope in to the atmosphere (**Romans 15:13**). Hope leads.

## HARBORS & HOPE CARRIERS

You can't have one of these without the other. If we only have harbors and not hope carriers reaching people, then no one will come to the harbors. If all we have are hope carriers that go into all areas of life, but there are no harbors for people to gather around the presence of God and be rebuilt and restored, everything falls apart. However you gather will determine how you scatter and however you scatter will determine how you gather. The more hope you give away, the more desperate you'll be to go back to the harbor. If you go out and don't give away what you have received you'll stop coming to the harbor. When you are a hope carrier, reaching people, you are excited to bring people with you back to the harbor.

## THE CHURCH

The church of Jesus is the training center and standard bearer for the kingdom of God. It isn't a resort, entertainment, or a teaching center. When we gather as the church we are learning how to be drawn by grace and changed by grace. It's like going to the gym—there has to be stretching. You are stretched to raise your faith, pray out loud, move forward, take a next step, renew your mind, or change your thinking. You are trained to live a kingdom life. In the church, you discover God's heart for all other areas of life. We aren't supposed to just declare the kingdom, we are supposed to demonstrate the kingdom of God to the world.

## MISSIONAL MOVE

This missional move, we believe God is saying, "Follow me." Jesus is our living hope (**1 Timothy 1:1**). When we follow Jesus, we are walking in the pathway of hope. When we follow the living hope, we are living hope. Hope is not found in our work, our circumstances, the things of the world, or our influence. It's found in Jesus. This missional move is about the hope of Jesus in our lives cascading out like a wake. It's about our own transformation as we follow Jesus and lay down our own lives (**Mark 8:34-35**).

## ASK/LISTEN/RESPOND

1. How is your time with God going during this missional move?
2. What do you feel like He is saying to you?
3. How are you going to use what you have for the good of others and the glory of God?