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# JOURNAL - INVEST IN THE CHURCH

JUNE 5 - JULY 3, 2022

## SERIES INTRODUCTION

“The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.” That phrase is certainly true when it comes to vegetable soup, the human shoulder, the symphony, or the Cincinnati Bengals. Whether it’s taste, movement, sound, or winning a Super Bowl each part has a critical role to play in the success of the whole. Each individual part has value on its own, but when it is coordinated with other parts, something greater emerges. This is also true when it comes to the local church. God has subdivided His international family into local expressions so that each community around the world can taste and see the goodness of the Gospel. By the power of the Holy Spirit, each local church has the resources within it to equip one another to live THE LIFE—loving God, loving people, and multiplication! The key is, having every individual INVEST their resources into the common mission. These resources—time, energy, skillset, training, experience, finance...etc.—are all distributed by God so that each of us has something to contribute. God delights to invest in us, so that we might delight in investing in and through the church. Let’s learn together what this might look like!

## HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

- 1. Receive Gospel Grace Verse** – Because it’s so critical to our spiritual lives to “Receive Gospel Grace,” each Monday we will provide a verse to help you keep His grace before you. We encourage you to spend a few minutes reading it slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you. You may want to write it out on an index card and return to this verse through the week.
- 2. Group Discussion Questions** – If you’re not already in a Community Group that is discussing the weekly themes and sermons, we encourage you to join one or form your own. (Reach out to Pastor Bill for ideas, [bcraig@hopemason.org](mailto:bcraig@hopemason.org).) Questions with an asterisk are recommended discussion questions, along with the “For Further Reflection” questions at the end of each week and the opening “Big Questions About the Church.”
- 3. “For Further Reflection” Questions** – For those of you who like to do a deeper dive, we’ve provided questions to take you a little further into the passage and theme for the week.
- 4. Scripture Memory** – We continue to “hide God’s Word in your heart” by memorizing 1 Peter 4:10.
- 5. Worship Song** - In the Tuesday e-mail, we’ll be including a “Song of the Week” that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.

# BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT “THE CHURCH”

Before we begin this series, take some time to reflect on your thoughts and experiences regarding “the Church.” You likely won’t have time today to think about all of these questions, but look over the list and get started thinking about and writing your thoughts on a few of them. We’ll encourage you to return to this list and address some of its questions throughout the series.

*\*Note: When we capitalize, “Church” in this journal, we are referring to one big group of people all over the world (and for all history, and the future). When we use the lower case “c,” we are referring to the local church (like Hope, for example).*

1. What is the worldwide Church? How would you define it?
2. How should the local church (like Hope) relate to the worldwide Church?
3. What is the purpose of the local church, and what are the main ways it is supposed to fulfill that purpose?
4. What makes a local church, a church? (For instance, could a small group of 6-10 men or women in Mason rightly call themselves “a church”? Why or why not?)
5. Why not sit home and watch church online, even if you’re able to come in person?
6. What experiences have shaped your view of church (positive and negative)?
7. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, how are you using them at Hope? If you don’t know them, how can you discover them? What is a next step for you here?
8. Why invest financially in the church, and how much?
9. What are some of the main roles you’ve had in the local church in your life?
10. What is your current involvement at Hope? What would Jesus affirm about that? What, if anything, might Jesus call you to change?
11. How is your Hope Church family more faithful to Jesus because of the ways you’ve invested in us? How might we become more faithful to Jesus because of you?
12. How are your hobbies or workplace abilities finding expression at Hope? How might they?

# MONDAY

**Receive Gospel Grace Verse:** Spend a few minutes reading the following verse slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you, then respond to Him in prayer. Return to this verse through the week.

***Ephesians 2:4 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved..."***

**Context:** Our passage for this week is 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, but before reading, let's look at the context. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1, 8:1, 12:1 and 16:1. What is Paul doing in these verses? Now read all of chapter 12.

**Reflect:** \*According to verses 1-11 (just before our passage for this week), what are spiritual gifts? Where do they come from? To whom are they given (v. 3 and 7)? What is their purpose?

# TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Our memory verse for this series is 1 Peter 4:10. Read it slowly, multiple times, and reflect on it as you read.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

**Reflect:** \*Verses 12-13 seem to be a thesis statement for what comes next. What is Paul's main point in these two verses? How do you see that fleshed out in the rest of the chapter?

\*What problem is Paul addressing in verses 14-20? Have you ever felt that way? What is Paul's answer to that problem, and how does that help?

WEEK 1: MAY 30-JUNE 3

# WEDNESDAY

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

**Reflect:** \*What problem is Paul addressing in verses 21-26? What gifts do you believe are most valued in the church today? Why do you think that is? What would Paul say about that?

\*What is God’s heart for us, the church, in verses 24-26? How have you been living that out lately? Prayerfully consider other ways someone could live out these verses and write them below.

# THURSDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Reflect:** \*Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

**Big Questions Reflection:** Return to the “Big Questions About the Church” list at the beginning of the journal and prayerfully reflect on and write down your thoughts on a couple of them.

# FRIDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Pastor Stephen's reflections on this week's theme in his book *Multiply*, pages 197-206. (Reach out to the church office if you'd like to purchase a copy of the book for \$10.)

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 again.



**\*Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace in this passage?



**\*Love God:** What are some main things we learn about God?



**\*Love One Another:** What do we learn about the Church, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and how we are to love each other?



**\*Love the World:** What does this passage teach us about those who don't believe in Jesus? Pray for someone outside the faith but inside your reach.

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Read the whole letter of 1 Corinthians (it will take most people 30 minutes to an hour, depending on how fast you read.) What are some major themes that Paul is addressing in the letter? What seems to be Paul's primary tone? (e.g., encouraging, confrontational, comforting, instructional, etc.) How does chapter 12 fit into the overall concerns of the letter?
- In verses 28-31, Paul lists a number of spiritual gifts. Do you believe you have any of the spiritual gifts he mentions here? (For another list of spiritual gifts, see Romans 12:3-8)
- Consider taking a spiritual gifts inventory if you haven't already. One resource is listed in the "Next Steps" section at the end of this journal. Check the results against what you know about yourself. Share them with someone who knows you well and ask for their feedback.
- How are your spiritual gifts finding expression at Hope Church right now? How might they?

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

We encourage you to discuss your reflections with others. Some ideas:

- Refer to this week's questions that have an "\*" by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Refer to the opening list of "Big Questions About the Church."
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).
- See the "For Further Reflection" section for more ideas.

# SERMON NOTES

*JUNE 5*

# **YOUR NOTES**

*WEEK 2: JUNE 6 - 10*

# MONDAY

**Receive Gospel Grace Verse:** Spend a few minutes reading the following verse slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you, then respond to Him in prayer. Return to this verse through the week.

**Psalm 32:1-2** *“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”*

**Larger Context:** \*Our passage for this week is Matthew 25:14-30, but before reading, let’s look at the context. This passage is part of a larger teaching of Jesus. Where does that teaching start? What question is Jesus answering?

**Immediate Context:** What is Jesus’ main point in Matthew 25:1-13, just before our passage?

**Read:** Now read Matthew 25:14-30. What themes does this parable share with the parable before? What’s different?

# TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Ask God to speak to you through His Word, then read Matthew 25:14-30.

**Reflect:** \*Let’s focus today on the master in the parable, who represents God. What do we learn about the master? What is he like? What is surprising about that?

\*How does the picture of the master in the parable match (or not match) the third servant’s estimation of him (verses 24-25)? Have you ever had such an estimation of God? Why? How is your estimation different now, if at all?

WEEK 2: JUNE 6-10

# WEDNESDAY

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

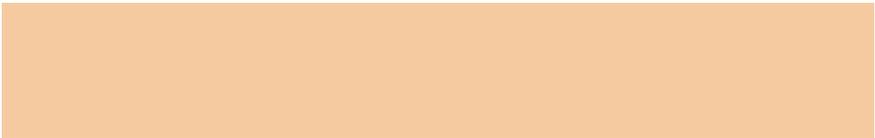
**Read:** Take a moment to ask God to speak to you through His Word, then read Matthew 25:14-30.

**Reflect:** \*Let’s look at the servants in the parable today. What were the differences between them? What words did the master use to describe each? What was wrong with what the third servant did? What were the outcomes for each? Whom do you think Jesus was referring to in the wicked servant?

\*Make a list of some of the primary assets God has entrusted to you. How have you been using those things to “increase His assets” in the world? Start asking God how He might want you to respond to this parable, and write a few possibilities below to consider.

# THURSDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Reflect:** \*Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Matthew 25:14-30 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

**Big Questions Reflection:** Return to the “Big Questions About the Church” list at the beginning of the journal and prayerfully reflect on and write down your thoughts on a couple of them.

# FRIDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Pastor Stephen's reflections on "Stewardship" on pages 207-211 of his book, *Multiply*.

**Read:** Read Matthew 25:14-30.



**\*Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace in this parable?



**\*Love God:** What do we learn about God, and how we love Him?



**\*Love One Another:** What do we learn about how we are to love our brothers or sisters in Christ, particularly at Hope? Or how might God want us to encourage a brother or sister in Christ with these truths today?



**\*Love the World:** Is there anything this passage teaches about those who are outside the faith? Is there a way I can pray for them based on this passage, or a step the Spirit is calling me to take?

## **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:**

- Do some research into what a “talent” was, and how much it was worth.
- Why did the master give different amounts to the servants? Does this teach us anything about God?
- The master said that the servant entrusted with five talents was faithful “over a little.” Considering what talents are worth, what does this tell us about God?
- What does verse 29 mean? Consider consulting trusted sources to hear possible explanations.
- Do a search on verses that talk about “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” What is it talking about? What does this tell us about God? The servant?
- What other questions does this parable raise for you? Where might you go to address some of those questions?

## **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

We encourage you to discuss your reflections with others. Some ideas:

- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “\*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Refer to the opening list of “Big Questions About the Church.”
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

# SERMON NOTES

*JUNE 12*

# **YOUR NOTES**

*WEEK 3: JUNE 13 - 17*

# MONDAY

**Receive Gospel Grace Verse:** Spend a few minutes reading the following verse slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you, then respond to Him in prayer. Return to this verse through the week.

**2 Corinthians 8:9** *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”*

**Larger Context:** \*Read Romans 15:25-31 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-9 for background on the collection Paul is taking (for the poor of the church in Jerusalem) that he mentions in our passage for this week.

**Read:** Take a moment to ask God to speak to you through His Word, then read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, remembering to check the immediate context before you read.

**Notes:** Make a few notes about this passage on the Notes page. What main points do you see? What questions do you have? We’ll dig deeper in the coming days.

# TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, then re-read verses 1-7.

**Reflect:** \*What does Paul say about the condition of the Macedonian churches? List all the ways that they are a model for the church at Corinth...and for us! Put a star by the ones that most challenge you.

\*In verse 7, Paul says to “excel in this act of grace” of giving. How might you become a more excellent giver? Prayerfully consider taking one immediate step this week.

WEEK 3: JUNE 13-17

## WEDNESDAY

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

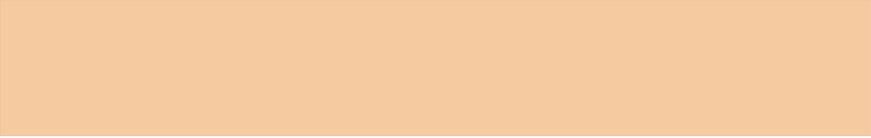
**Read:** Ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, then read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. Re-read verses 8-15.

**Reflect:** \*How did Paul say Jesus was an example to us? Think about each aspect of that, and thank Him for it.

\*What key principles of giving does Paul lay out in verses 8-15. Put a star by the one(s) that you most need to hear. Talk to God about it (them).

## THURSDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Reflect:** \*Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

**Big Questions Reflection:** Return to the “Big Questions About the Church” list at the beginning of the journal and prayerfully reflect on and write down your thoughts on a couple of them.

# FRIDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Pastor Stephen's reflections on Generosity on pages 211-215 of his book, *Multiply*.

**Read:** Look back through the passages we read this week.



**\*Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace?



**\*Love God:** What do we learn about God, and how we love Him?



**\*Love One Another:** What do we learn about how we are to love our brothers or sisters in Christ, particularly at Hope? Or how might God want you to encourage a brother or sister in Christ with these truths today?



**\*Love the World:** What do the passages say about those who are outside the faith? How are we called to view them and love them? Is there a way you can pray for them based on these passages, or a step the Spirit is calling you to take?

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Read Acts 18:1-18 for background on Paul's first visit to Corinth.
- Paul says that the Macedonian churches gave "beyond their means." What does that mean, and how does that challenge you?
- In verse 4, Paul says that the Macedonian churches "begged us earnestly for the favor (literally, "grace") of taking part in the relief of the saints..." What does that tell you about how Paul was responding to their initial offers?
- What other stories of radically generous giving can you think of in Scripture? Do you know any stories of radical giving from today?
- What does Paul affirm in the church at Corinth? Do you think he could say the same of you? Of Hope? Explain.
- In verse 14, Paul says that "your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need." What does he mean? Whose need might God want to supply through the abundance He's given you?
- What Old Testament story is Paul referring to in verse 15? Find out, and read the story. How does this serve his point in this passage?

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

We encourage you to discuss your reflections with others. Some ideas:

- Refer to this week's questions that have an "\*" by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Refer to the opening list of "Big Questions About the Church."
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).
- See the "For Further Reflection" section for more ideas.

# SERMON NOTES

*JUNE 19*

# **YOUR NOTES**

*WEEK 4: JUNE 20 - 24*

# MONDAY

**Receive Gospel Grace Verse:** Spend a few minutes reading the following verse slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you, then respond to Him in prayer. Return to this verse through the week.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”*

**Read:** Our passage this week is from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Since we were in 8:1-15 last week, just look at 8:16-9:5 to get context, then read 9:6-15 slowly.

**Reflect:** \*List the principles of giving that Paul gives in this passage. Put a star by the one(s) that challenge you most.

\*Paul presents God as a bountiful giver. According to this passage, why does God give bountifully?

# TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** Take a moment to ask God to speak to you through His Word, then read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

**Reflect:** \* Paul says in verse 6, “Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly.” List as many reasons you can think of that people might sow sparingly. Which of these do you see in your own life? Confess that to God, and ask for His help to change your heart, to make you a more generous sower.

\*Some people don't want to give but give anyway (“reluctantly or under compulsion”). Why might people do that? When was the last time you gave reluctantly or “under compulsion,” and why? Talk to God about that.

WEEK 4: JUNE 20-24

# WEDNESDAY

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

**Read:** Ask God to speak to you through His Word, then read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

**Reflect:** \*Paul keeps talking about this offering and people’s generosity being an “act of grace” (8:1, 6, 7, 19, 9:14, etc.). How is all of this “an act of grace”?

\*What does Paul say will be the fruit or result of their giving?

# THURSDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Reflect:** \*Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

**Big Questions Reflection:** Return to the “Big Questions About the Church” list at the beginning of the journal and prayerfully reflect on and write down your thoughts on a couple of them.

# FRIDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.

**Read:** Pastor Stephen's reflections on this week's theme on pages 216-220 of his book, *Multiply*.

**Shapes:** \*How do all four of our "shapes" show up in this chapter?



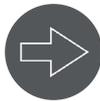
\***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace?



\***Love God:** What do we learn about God, and how we love Him?



\***Love One Another:** What do we learn about how we are to love our brothers or sisters in Christ, particularly at Hope? How might God want you to encourage a brother or sister in Christ with these truths today?



\***Love the World:** Imagine reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 aloud with someone who is "outside the faith but inside your reach." How do you imagine they might respond to this teaching? What might they find compelling? What questions or objections do you think they'd have?

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Paul says that “God loves a cheerful giver.” How cheerful would you say your giving has been of late? How might you grow in cheerfulness in your giving?
- Look up the Old Testament reference that Paul quotes in verse 9. Where is it from, and what was it talking about? How does it help Paul make his point in this passage?
- Put the “events” of verses 12-14 in chronological order: (e.g., this service, thanksgiving to God, their approval of this service, they glorify God, your submission, your confession of the gospel, your generosity, they long for you, they pray for you, the grace of God upon you...).
- It was the impoverished Jewish Christians in Jerusalem who were going to be receiving this gift. The church at Corinth was largely Gentiles. What do we know about the relationship between Jews and Gentiles, and how does this add to our appreciation of this passage?

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

We encourage you to discuss your reflections with others. Some ideas:

- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “\*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Refer to the opening list of “Big Questions About the Church.”
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

# SERMON NOTES

*JUNE 26*

# **YOUR NOTES**

*WEEK 5: JUNE 27 - JULY 1*

# MONDAY

**Receive Gospel Grace Verse:** Spend a few minutes reading the following verse slowly, multiple times, and allowing God to speak His grace over you, then respond to Him in prayer. Return to this verse through the week.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** *“But (God) said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

**Context:** 1 Peter 4:1 starts with the words, “Since, therefore...”, so our passage continues a thought. Where does the section begin, and what is it about?

**Read:** 1 Peter 4:1-11.

**Reflect:** \*In verses 1-6, how does Peter characterize life before knowing Jesus? How were these part of your life before you knew Christ? How has God saved you from those things? Thank Him for it! Which, if any, continue to be areas of temptation or struggle? Is there a step to take here?

# TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.



**Read:** 1 Peter 4:1-11.

**Reflect:** \*Write out the commands in verses 7-11. Beside each, write the “why” and/or the “how” Peter gives for it (where applicable).

\*What does Peter say about spiritual gifts in verses 10-11? Where do they come from, to whom are they given, for what purpose, using what power? In verse 11, what is the ultimate purpose of using our gifts? What does that mean?

# WEDNESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out 1 Peter 4:10. Reflect on it as you write.

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

**Reflect:** \*Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage.

**Big Questions Reflection:** Return to the “Big Questions About the Church” list at the beginning of the journal and prayerfully reflect on and write down your thoughts on a couple of them.

# THURSDAY

**Barriers:** \*Today and tomorrow, we look back over the whole series to prayerfully reflect on the theme, “Invest in the Church.” Look back through all five weeks of the journal. Then ask yourself, “What makes it hard for me to invest in the church?” Some examples might be:

- **Weariness** – “I’m so tired already! How could I possibly give more?”
- **Insecurity** – “I just don’t have much to offer!”
- **Selfishness** – “Honestly, I don’t want to. I don’t see the benefits to me.”
- **Scarcity** – “I don’t have any more time or money to give!”
- **Other** –

Share that barrier with a trusted friend. Ask them to pray with and for you, that God would help you overcome that barrier and live a life of deeper love for His people.

\*If you have more time, address more questions from the “Big Questions About the Church” at the beginning of the journal.

*Note: You can’t just keep giving more and more time and money. Most of us would have to stop doing something else or using money for something else to invest more in the Church. Pray about that. Look at your calendar. Look at your budget. Lay them down before the Lord, and pray, “Lord, I belong to You, and all that I have is Yours. Is there anything you want me to let go of in order to free up time or money to give to Your Church?” He’ll lead you!*

# FRIDAY

***Consider gathering some people from Hope to discuss these with you in the coming week.***

**Review** – \*Look back over the last five weeks. What has God been saying to you? Write down some key thoughts and ideas.

**Question** – \*What is your biggest question right now about “Investing in the Church”?

**Next Step** – \*What is ONE next step God might have you take to invest in what God is doing at Hope? You may have already written some down over the last five weeks. New ones may come to mind. You can also see “Possible Next Steps” for further ideas. Write some ideas below and put a star by the one you sense God leading you to take. Then share it with a friend!

**Benefits** – \*What benefits will come to you as you grow to invest in the Church? What benefits might come to God’s people at Hope from your investment? What benefits might come to people outside Hope?

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

We encourage you to discuss your reflections with others. Some ideas:

- We suggest using the summary questions on Thursday (“Barriers”) and Friday (first three questions) as your group discussion this week, wrapping up the series.
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “\*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Refer to the opening list of “Big Questions About the Church.”
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).

## POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS FOR “INVESTING IN THE CHURCH”

- Reach out to a Hope Church staff member to ask about how you might serve.
- Go on Hope’s website ([www.hopemason.org/serving](http://www.hopemason.org/serving)) and explore ways to serve.
- E-mail Pastor Gary ([gangstadt@hopemason.org](mailto:gangstadt@hopemason.org)) about one-time serving opportunities.
- Fill out the “S.H.A.P.E.” test ([www.freeshapetest.com](http://www.freeshapetest.com)) to get a sense of some of your gifts, abilities, passions, etc. Be sure to put Pastor Bill’s e-mail address ([bcraig@hopemason.org](mailto:bcraig@hopemason.org)) in the “Email Address of Your Church Leader” box.
- Ask God how He might have you increase your giving, inside and/or outside Hope Church.
- Visit [www.hopemasoninsideout.org](http://www.hopemasoninsideout.org) and prayerfully consider how God might lead you to invest in Hope Church through the InsideOut initiative.
- Read a book about the Church:
  - *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - *Becoming a True Spiritual Community* by Larry Crabb
- Brainstorm other steps you could take:

# SERMON NOTES

*JULY 3*

# NOTES





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