HOPE BEARERS

Jesus is the ultimate hope bearer. His death and resurrection gives hope to all humanity by providing a way from death into eternal life. When we put our trust in God, we can remain hopeful regardless of the circumstances, and share hope with others.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” —Romans 15:13

“What matters most is not how much hope you have, but the source of your hope.”

PASTOR SHAWN

MEMORY VERSE

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” —Romans 15:13
Biblical insights for the week in just five minutes a day. This week’s daily devotionals are written by Pastor Brian Howard

**M**  
Luke 7:1–5

This week, our story begins with a centurion whose servant is sick. The servant was someone who “the master valued highly.” Right in the midst of his pain, he thinks of Jesus. This man likely doesn’t know much about Jesus, the story of God or the true reality of the Gospel. But, he has heard of Jesus and is desperate enough to reach out.

One of the incredible things about living in our culture is that people all around us have heard of Jesus. They may not trust Him or honor Him, but they do know His name. And in the darkest moments of despair, many people find themselves reaching out to Him. What this means for us is that we must be ready. As Peter puts it, we must be ready to share the reason for the hope in us. (1 Peter 3:15) You cannot know when someone in your life will reach out for the hope of Jesus, but you can be ready for the time that they do!

**FOR TODAY:** Think through how you would respond to someone who asks you about Jesus in the midst of his or her pain.

**T**  
Luke 7:6

Despite his stature and power in the community, the centurion displays remarkable humility in the presence of Jesus, saying, “I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.” (v.6) This is a statement that is true for this man not because he is a Gentile, but because he is sinner standing before the Holy God of the Universe in human flesh. His response may have been more theologically accurate than even he understood. The same is true for each of us. We are not worthy to receive the unbelievable gift of God’s presence. The grace of God is an unmerited gift that we do not deserve. True Christian hope acknowledges this reality even in the midst of pain and suffering. When we are suffering or walking people through pain, we should not shy away from this Gospel reality but rather push further into it. We ought to gently and graciously lead people to see their dependence on God’s mercy and their need for His grace afresh.

**FOR TODAY:** Thank God for His mercy and grace given freely to you!
The centurion tells Jesus, “Say the word, and my servant will be healed” (verse 7). Again, this man does not know everything about Jesus but he does know that Jesus has authority to heal. He knows that for Jesus to heal his servant would not be a hard thing. In other words, he believes in the power of Jesus’ words to heal. If we are to be hope bearers in our broken world, we must also be confident in the power of the Word of God to heal. While physical healing may not always come on this side of glory, we must never back down from believing that the Word’s of God has the power to bring hope and healing into even the darkest of places. In order to minister these words, however, we must study them, treasure them and hide them in our hearts. Then they can flow from our lips and into the hurting world around us.

FOR TODAY: Spend time alone with your Bible and try memorizing a few verses.

Jesus hears the centurion’s faith and the text tells us that He is “amazed.” (v.9) There is only one other place in the Bible where Jesus is amazed, and that is in Mark 6 where he is amazed at unbelief. This is a reminder to me is that Jesus is not amazed at our acts of service, knowledge of the Bible, church attendance or spiritual gifts. He is amazed at faith. If we are going to be hope bearers to a hurting world, it is going to take faith. We need to believe that Jesus wants to heal and redeem even during unspeakably painful and broken situations. When those around us are in despair and their faith fails, it is our job to declare the faithfulness of our God. We won’t have all the answers, and we won’t be able to fix everything, but we do know the One who is willing and able to save.

FOR TODAY: Ask God to increase your faith!

The story ends with the men the centurion sent out returning to the house and finding the servant healed. It has always struck me that Jesus never laid eyes on the servant, nor did the centurion ask him to. He and his men walked back to the house and, out of faith, believed that Jesus did exactly what He said He would. It is that same kind of faith that we must have if we are to extend faith to a hurting world. It is that kind of confidence in Jesus that operates by faith, not sight. As Christians, we can believe that our God is a promise maker and a promise keeper. Even when we can’t see His hand, we can trust His heart and know that He will never let us down. This is good news for a hurting world that is desperate for the living God!

FOR TODAY: Ask God for opportunities to bring hope to the people around you!
This week’s main passage can be found in Luke 7:1–17

If you missed this week’s sermon, go to calvarycc.org/engage to watch the video!
Warm Up Activity

Listen to the song “Anchor” by Hillsong Worship together as you read the lyrics on the following page.

Group Flow
- warm-up
- video
- discussion
- prayer

Theme
Sharing hope in a broken world

Passages
- John 13:1–17

This week’s small group video content can be found online at calvarycc.org/engage
I have this hope as an anchor for my soul
Through every storm, I will hold to You.
With endless love, all my fear is swept away
In everything, I will trust in You.

There is hope in the promise of the cross.
You gave everything to save the world You love;
And this hope is an anchor for my soul.
Our God will stand Unshakeable.

Unchanging One.
You, who was, and is to come,
Your promise sure, You will not let go

Your Name is higher, Your Name is greater.
All my hope is in You.
Your word unfailing, Your promise unshaken
All my hope is in You.
How is hope different than optimism, confidence, or positive thinking?

In our culture, what are some things we put hope in?

What did you put your hope in before you came to faith in Christ?

As you read the two stories of healing in Luke 7:1–17, what stands out to you?

What is the connection between faith and hope?

Pastor Shawn identified three sources (world, flesh and devil) that can rob us of our hope. When you think back to times of discouragement, are there any common patterns or triggers that lead you to become hopeless?

Explain briefly.
How does hope in Christ motivate us toward change? Share a time when the hope you had in Christ moved you forward despite difficult circumstances.

How can we spark hope in someone else?

**What are some practical ways you have been able to share hope with others?**

When you are struggling to have hope, what reminds you of the anchor you have in Christ?

**Share a favorite verse, song, or activity (e.g., making a list of what you are thankful for) that stirs hope in you.**

Which of the six DNA markers was most interesting or impactful for you?

How have you engaged differently in a relationship as a result of this series?

Which DNA marker are you planning to work on in the following months? Share with each other for mutual accountability.

Pray together for the Holy Spirit to continue leading you toward change and growth in your everyday relationships.
How can you be a **Hope Bearer**?

When you have the hope of Christ, you can bring that hope to others. It can be done through kindness, encouraging words, or through your example. You can bring hope through the smallest and the largest of ways.

**Main Passage:** *Luke 7:1–17*

1. What gives you hope?

2. How can you show that hope to others?

3. Who can you bring hope to?

4. How has Christ brought hope into your life?

**Bible Memory**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

— *Romans 15:13*

**Action**

You can offer the hope of Christ to others. **Give** the flower you have been growing to the person you have been praying for. Share with them why they matter to Jesus and to you.