



CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Title: The Hope that Heals (With [Men of Nehemiah](#))

Preacher: Rand Carlson

Scripture: Luke 18:35-43

Although it may look different for each of us, at some point we all experience some form of hopelessness. This may be the result of our own doing or simply the reality of living in a fallen, broken world. Whatever the cause or circumstance, what matters is how we respond.

In Luke 18, Jesus takes the time to stop and engage with a blind beggar. Because of the blind man's faith, Jesus restores his sight. From this passage, we learn that hope often begins in desperation, it requires action, and it ultimately leads to transformation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. How would you define hope? How does it differ from mere optimism or wishful thinking?
3. Read Luke 18:38-39. What is the significance of the blind man's recognition of Jesus as the Messiah? How does knowing who Jesus is (Son of God, Savior, Lord) give us confidence and hope in times of uncertainty or struggle?
4. In verse 42, Jesus tells the blind man, "Your faith has healed you." What do you think Jesus meant by this? How do you think faith plays a role in our transformation today?
5. Reflect on your own story of transformation by recalling a time when God brought you through a season of despair. How can we bring hope to others who

are struggling with hopelessness? What role do we play as carriers of hope in our families, communities, or workplaces?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

Romans 8:24-25 speaks of hope in the context of waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. Hope and waiting often go hand-in-hand. But how can we maintain hope even when we don't see immediate results or answers to prayer? What does it mean to hope with patience, and how can we cultivate this kind of hope in our lives?

We don't like waiting. We want instant results. But that's not always how life works. Sometimes, we have to wait for answers or circumstances to change. More often than not, some of life's biggest blessings require patience. The problem is, we're not built for slow. But, if we want to be people who are characterized by patience, then we must increase our tolerance for slowness. This is why we practice intentionally cultivating times of waiting or slowness in the midst of the hurry and hustle of life. This week, flex your muscles for patience by practicing self-denial. Say no to something you would like to buy, to eat, to have, or to do. Allow yourself to be satisfied while your desires remain unfulfilled. Build your muscles to wait on God!

For more practices like this, as well as prayers and reflections to guide you through this season, make sure to pick up a copy of our 2024 Advent devotional at the church or download it [here](#).