

Unshakable Hope

Video Discussion Guide

Max Lucado

Unshakable Hope

SESSION ONE

You Are Stamped with God's Image

KEY STORY:

God creates humankind

(GENESIS 1:26 - 30)

GOD'S PROMISE:

Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature.

(GENESIS 1:26 MSG)

MY PROMISE:

I will embrace my role as God's image bearer.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 27 & 28

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched on the video and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- From the beginning, the Bible makes a case for the existence of God. But what are some of the ways the Bible also makes the case for the *dependability* of God?
- What are some things in today's world that make you feel anything but important? How will you reinforce the truth of being an image bearer of God every day this week?

Unshakable Hope

- How can you encourage others who may be hang trouble accepting that God has created them in his image?
- What is your specific actionstep to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

One of the most important things you can do with those in your community is to pray for one another. This is not simply a closing prayer to end the group time but an opportunity to share prayer requests, review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises, and actually pray for one another. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience, and then write down specific prayer requests and praise reports.

- How can you praise God for making you an image bearer?
- In what specific ways will you ask God to help you build your life on this identity?
- How can you help others realize they have been stamped with God's image?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION TWO

God Will Win the Victory

KEY STORY:

God promises the serpent's defeat

(GENESIS 3:13- 15)

GOD'S PROMISE:

The God who brings peace will soon defeat Satan and give you power over him.

(ROMANS 16:20 NCV)

MY PROMISE:

I will acknowledge Satan but worship God.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 40 & 41

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched on the video and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- How does the idea of being in a battle affect the way you should approach each day?
- How does it help you to know the enemy has already been defeated?

Unshakable Hope

- How can you be alert to the enemy's tactics but not live in fear of him? How do you maintain the right perspective?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- How can you praise God for the victory he promises over the enemy?
- In what specific ways will you ask God to help you build your life on this promise?
- How can you pray this promise over those who are not yet part of the group?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION THREE

You Are an Heir of God

KEY STORY:

God tells Joshua to take the Promised Land

(JOSHUA 1:1- 18)

GOD'S PROMISE:

We are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

(ROMANS 8 :17)

MY PROMISE:

I will live out of my inheritance, not my circumstances.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 52 & 53

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched on the video and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- How does the concept of adoption affect the way you view your place in God's family?
- Why is it often difficult to look beyond circumstances to your true standing with God?
- How will you choose to fight *from victory* rather than *for* victory?

Unshakable Hope

- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- How can you praise God for giving you an inheritance?
- What are some circumstances in which you need to see God's promises at work?
- Which people in your life most need to embrace their inheritance from God?
- Which additional neighbors and friends can you ask God to bring to the group?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION FOUR

Your Prayers Have Power

KEY STORY:

Elijah's prayers call down fire from heaven

(1 KINGS 18:16- 46)

GOD'S PROMISE:

When a believing person prays, great things happen.

(JAMES 5: 16 NCV)

MY PROMISE:

I will make prayer my priority and passion.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 63 & 64

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- Do you struggle with the idea that your prayers could be *powerful*? Why or why not?
- How does the Bible reinforce this idea of prayers being powerful and effective?

Unshakable Hope

- How does it make you feel to think of God *delighting* in your prayers?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- - What praises can you share about how God is developing your prayer life?
 - What good things do you hope to see God do through prayer this week in regard to some of your circumstances or challenges?
 - How can you pray this promise over those who are not part of the group?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION FIVE

God Gives Grace to the Humble

KEY STORY:

God tells a king who really is in charge

(DANIEL 4:24 - 27)

GOD'S PROMISE:

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

(1 PETER 5:5 NKJV)

MY PROMISE:

I will pursue humility.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 75 & 76

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- What was the difference between Daniel's heart and Nebuchadnezzar's heart?
- What was God's purpose in sending Daniel to interpret the king's dream?

Unshakable Hope

- Why does God say that he abhors the haughty heart?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- What are some praises you can share about how God worked to grow your humility this week? What did you learn from the experience?
- As you look again at this session's God's Promise and My Promise, do you have any specific prayer needs for the week ahead?
- How will you ask God to help you humbly be like Jesus this week as you interact with your family and your friends?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION SIX

God Gets You

KEY STORY:

God becomes flesh and enters the world

(LUKE 2:4 - 7)

GOD'S PROMISE:

Our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses.

(HEBREWS 4:15 NCV)

MY PROMISE:

I will draw near to God with confidence that he hears me and understands me.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 88 & 89

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- What are some of the ways that people tend to picture God? What does the fact that he chose to enter the world as a baby tell you about his nature?
- How does Jesus' humanity cause you to desire to draw near him? How does Jesus' divinity cause you to want to worship him?

Unshakable Hope

- How do you wrap your mind around the fact that Jesus was both human and divine at the same time? What stories in the Bible illustrate both his humanity and divinity?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- How did you see God at work around you this week? How did this build your confidence in approaching your heavenly Father with your needs?
- This week, you were challenged to look at areas of weakness. What specific prayer request are you willing to share related to an area of weakness or struggle?
- There are people in your life who need the confidence of knowing God understands their weaknesses. How can you and your small group pray for one of these important people in your sphere of influence?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION SEVEN

Jesus Is Praying for You

KEY STORY:

Jesus prays for his disciples in the storm

(MATTHEW 14:22- 24)

GOD'S PROMISE:

[Jesus) is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

(ROMANS 8:34)

MY PROMISE:

I will take heart because Jesus is speaking up for me.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 100 & 101

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples into the storm? How does it help you to know that he experienced the same gale-force winds as they did?
- How does this teaching encourage you in the storms you are currently facing?
- How have you seen God do the miraculous on the other side of your storms?

Unshakable Hope

- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- How can your group praise God for the way he is moving in your life?
- In what ways can your group ask Jesus to intercede on your behalf?
- What specific storms are affecting your friends or loved ones? How can the group pray for these individuals?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION EIGHT

Death Has Been Defeated

KEY STORY:

Jesus is raised from the dead

(MATTHEW 28 :2 - 7)

GOD'S PROMISE:

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:54)

MY PROMISE:

I will entrust my death to the Lord of life.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 112 & 113

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- What are some ways that people you know have described what happens after death?
- What reassurances does the Bible offer about what happens to followers of Jesus when they die? What hope does this provide to you right now?

Unshakable Hope

- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?
- What are some ways to view death and loss through the lens of Christ's resurrection?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- God has won the victory over death. Where else have you seen God's victory in your life this week?
- In what areas do you need to ask God to reveal the victory?
- How can you pray for someone in your life who is struggling right now and could use a reminder of this unshakable promise from God?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION NINE

Joy Is Coming Soon

KEY STORY:

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

(JOHN 20 :11- 18)

GOD'S PROMISE:

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

(PSALM 30:5 NLT)

MY PROMISE:

I will praise God before my prayer is answered.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 123 & 124

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- How does the joy Mary Magdalene found that morning she encountered the risen Jesus encourage you to endure any sorrow you are facing?
- How does it impact you to know the risen Jesus was not too holy, too otherly, too divine, or too supernatural to receive a hug from Mary?

Unshakable Hope

- Why do believers in Christ so often withdraw from community when they are in the midst of sorrow? How can your group create an atmosphere of acceptance for someone to share when dealing with sorrow or struggles?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- What joys did you experience this week for which you would like to give God praise?
- What sorrows or struggles are weighing on your heart for which the group can pray?
- Are there people in your life who are struggling with sorrow and pain? How can the group pray for them?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION TEN

You Will Have Power

KEY STORY:

The Holy Spirit fills Jesus' followers with power
(ACTS 2:1- 4)

GOD'S PROMISE:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.
(ACTS 1:8)

MY PROMISE:

I will seek to sense, see, and hear the Holy Spirit.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 136 & 137

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- What in the teaching surprised you about the role or work of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the idea of settling for a two-thirds God affect your view of your faith?
- What are the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to you? How is he empowering you for ministry inside the church? How is he empowering you for ministry outside the church?

Unshakable Hope

- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- How did you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life this week? Share a story.
- Where do you need to see the power in God's Promise working more clearly?
- Think about those in your sphere of influence who may not be experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit. How can the group pray for them?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION ELEVEN

There Is No Condemnation in Christ

KEY STORY:

Paul meets the risen Christ

(ACTS 9:1- 19)

GOD'S PROMISE:

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

(ROMANS 8:1)

MY PROMISE:

I will find forgiveness in the finished work of Christ.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 148 & 149

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- What are some ways that people try to pay their spiritual debt through good works? What is the basic problem with this approach?
- What are some ways that people try to deny they have a spiritual debt? What is the basic problem with this approach?

Unshakable Hope

- What is your definition of *grace*? What is your understanding of how Jesus provided the solution to humanity's problem of spiritual debt?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer. Remember to share prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- In what ways can you praise God for his promise of grace?
- Based on God's Promise, is there a specific prayer need you have this week?
- How can the group pray for you regarding the challenge to be light to others?

Unshakable Hope

SESSION TWELVE

Justice Will Prevail

KEY STORY:

John receives a vision of a new heaven and earth

(REVELATION 22:1- 5)

GOD'S PROMISE:

For [God] has set a day when he will judge the world.

(ACTS 17:31)

MY PROMISE:

I will respect God's justice and delight in God's grace.

GROUP DISCUSSION - Facilitator's Guide Pages 159 & 160

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

- What statement in the video teaching affected you the most? Why?
- How will your knowledge of God's future justice affect the way you approach your personal challenges this week?
- How will your understanding of God's justice affect the challenges you have with people both inside and outside the church this week?

Unshakable Hope

- What will you commit to as a plan of action to consistently shift your gaze to things above?
- What is your specific action step to live out this promise of God this week?

PRAY

Close your titne together with prayer. Remember to share any final prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers and fulfilled his promises during the twelve weeks in this study. Use the questions below to shape and grow your group's experience during this time.

- In what ways can you praise God for his promise of grace?
- Where did you see God help you gain a more eternal perspective this week?
- How can the group pray for those "old things" you want to see God make new?

