

HEAVEN TO EARTH

LESSON 1 // HOPE FROM HEAVEN

Big Idea: We all experience significant challenges in our lives. In the midst of these challenges, overwhelming problems and discouraging circumstances can wear down our hope and any vision for our future.

That's why it's so important to know from God's Word that you're never alone in your trials and failures. You're known and loved by Jesus and He always offers you a new beginning and opportunities to serve Him—even when you mess up. Our hope is in Him and the power, grace and forgiveness He has made available to us.

John 21:15-17 (NIV) *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

Start Talking:

- If you can pick one miracle in the Bible to witness, which would it be? Why?
- How would you explain miracles to someone that isn't a Christian?

Start Thinking:

- This weekend Pastor Dale shared that Satan will use intimidation to deter us from God's best for our lives. What are some things that intimidate you from fulfilling God's mission for your life? If you have overcome these things, how have you done it?
- There comes a point where we must choose to believe the truth about who God says we are and what He wants for us. What are some common lies that you think people can easily believe about themselves? What are practical ways for us to combat these lies?
- **Read John 21:3-17.** In this chapter we see Jesus restore Peter after Peter denied him. We can imagine that Peter felt dejected and as if he had lost a sense of purpose. Have you ever experienced this in your life? Take a moment and share how God restored you.
- **Read John 10:10.** The NIV translation reads "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." What does this kind of life look like? What is one intentional thing that you can do to this week, to continue to move toward this kind of life? Will you do it?

Start Praying:

Ask group members to share needs that they (or friends, family, co-workers, etc) are experiencing. Pray for one another boldly asking God to do miracles. Pray for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to empower your group members to live boldly for God and pursue the full life that Jesus referenced in John 10.

Start Doing:

- Invite those in your group to prayerfully consider supporting outreach efforts at Church of the Redeemer. Support can be offered by volunteering, donating products, or offering financial support (for those that are able). For more information visit: <https://church-redeemer.org/ministries/outreach/covid-19>
- Attend church online this coming weekend - <https://church-redeemer.churchonline.org> If possible host a watch party over Facebook and be part of service with your group.