



# Brown Community Group

## Discussion Guide

Love Jesus, Live Sent – Value 2: Life-Giving Hope  
November 14, 2021

### I. Starter Thoughts and Context:

Can you think of a time in your life where your commitment to someone, building them up, sharing something in common has led to great joy? Did you enjoy sharing, a common bond and belief and helping build them up? When have you known or worked with someone that was so full of passion, life and love? What was it about them that gives you this impression? Or maybe it was the opposite knowing someone that was a constant downer, lack of trust and hurtful.

### II. Explanation of Value:

Values for an organization define its culture. They serve as the guardrails for how it goes about its mission and how it pursues its vision. Values keep the organization from drifting away from its foundational purpose.

**Our second reframed value is Life-Giving Hope:** We reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ with delight by building relationships and environments infused with grace and joy (John 10:10; John 15:9-11; Romans 15:4-7; Colossians 2:6-7; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 1:3-9). Based on these things we value as a church, we believe that an **individual disciple is overjoyed by the gospel. This abundance of joy** in all circumstances overflows into all areas of the disciple's life and is evident to all those around them. This trait is an attribute of a disciple toward which we want to equip one another.

### III. Discussion of Scripture:

**Context:** Jesus, speaking to some Pharisees, explains the parable of the Good Shepherd. Just as a shepherd cares well for a flock of sheep, so Jesus cares well for us, his followers.

#### John 10:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What does the description "having life" mean as described here?
2. Where does this true life come from?
3. What does it mean that we have this true life to an abundant extent?

**Context:** Jesus, speaking to his disciples, teaches them a parable about the vine and the branches. He instructs his disciples to remain connected to the vine by first 1) trusting in him, 2) by obeying his commandments, and 3) by loving one another. By doing this, we will bear fruit, including a hope and a joy that is visible to all those around us.

#### John 15:9-11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

4. **What does it look like or mean for us to “abide in Jesus’s love”? In verse 10, is this different that Jesus abiding in God’s love? Why or why not?**
5. **How does abiding in Jesus’s love for us specifically lead to such great joy?**

**Context:** Paul instructs the Romans, and us, toward a spirit of unity and peace and to seek to build up one another in the hope that we have in Christ.

#### **Romans 15:1-7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

6. **In verses 1-3, what is the primary focus point for ourselves that we should immediately implement in our schedules?**
7. **In verse 4, what drives our Hope?**
8. **The Christian’s life includes supporting, encouraging, and building up one another (equipping). How can you strengthen and build up others here at HHBC through the hope that you have in Christ? Does this stop within our church?**

**Context:** Paul, writing to the church in Colossae, warns them against false teaching, including paganism, and points them instead toward the sufficiency and supremacy of Jesus. This freedom from worldliness through receiving Jesus should then result in a life of abundance, joy, and thanksgiving.

#### **Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

9. **Paul uses the metaphors of walking, a tree (“rooted”), and building (“built up”) to describe what it looks like to follow Jesus. How do each of these give us a picture of what it looks like for us to be following Jesus?**
10. **What is the natural result or purpose of being rooted and established in Christ, according to verse 7?**
11. **What does this idea of abounding bring to mind or look like? In what ways might that affect or impact the way that you disciple others?**

**Context:** Following a discussion of the importance of Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice, we are reminded of our restored relationship with God through our faith in Jesus, and how this should lead us to an increasing love for one another.

### Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**12. What is the confession of our hope? How does this lead you to love Jesus more?**

**13. What role does disciple-making play in the command the author gives in verses 24 and 25?**

**Context:** Peter, seeking to encourage the scattered church in the midst of suffering, reminds them of the new and living hope that we have in Jesus, through his resurrection. As a result of this, we have “an inexpressible and glorious joy”, even in the midst of trials and suffering.

### 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**14. What does it mean to have a “living hope”? Why might Peter have been reminding Christians in the midst of suffering that they have a “living hope”?**

**15. Even in the midst of suffering and trials, we are called to rejoice and be filled with joy. How is this possible?**

**16. How does this encourage you as you seek to build relationships and environments infused with a life-giving hope?**

#### IV. Responding in Prayer:

- Pray for each of us to be overjoyed by the power and sufficiency of the gospel.
- Pray that this joy and hope that we have in the gospel would overflow in an abundant way as we seek to make disciples.
- Pray that our church would be known as a place that is filled with hope and joy as we seek to take the gospel to our city, nation, and the world.
- Continue to pray that our church grows in our pursuit of glorifying God by becoming a hub for an all-ages disciple-making movement, equipping one another to love Jesus and live sent.