



**HOPE** FAMILY

LEADER GUIDE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. What is Hope Family
2. Meeting Format Options
3. Spiritual Journey Inventory
4. How To Use S.O.A.P. Journal
5. Bible Reading Plan
6. Prayer Log
7. Sample Scripture Memory Card
8. Accountability Questions
9. Sample Meeting Plan
10. FAQ

## WHAT IS HOPE FAMILY?

The vision for **Hope Family** is rooted in seeing the mission of Hope Church fulfilled.

The mission of Hope Church is to grow a relational, missional, Spirit-filled family that will provide a living demonstration of the Kingdom of God. In other words, whether here or somewhere else around the world, doing what Jesus would do if He were us.

As we take this next step into where we believe the Father is leading Hope Church it looks a lot like the church of Acts 2.

*42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[d] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:42-47(ESV)*

We believe that it is important for our family to gather together “in the temple” but it is equally important for our family to gather at “the table”. Real discipleship doesn’t happen in a Sunday morning service, real discipleship happens when we intentionally pursue relationships with those “the Father has given us”. We believe that now is the time for the spiritual “fathers and mothers” to step into all that God has prepared them for and to disciple those who have been “given to them.” It is our belief that as our “Family Leaders” begin to lead their family, their family will grow and mature and begin to disciple those in *their* circle of influence and will ultimately “father and mother” those who have been “given to *them*”; We believe THIS is how the church will grow. Our mission isn’t to grow large life groups but to grow a family of believers that grows a family of believers until we have “made disciples of all nations”.

*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

*Matthew 28:19-20(ESV)*

**Hope Family** isn't a substitute for Sunday gatherings but a place for intentional discipleship to happen, discipleship that is founded in relational, missional and Spirit-filled relationships. It is our belief that as the "Family Leaders" invest in the lives and hearts of those in their family that ALL will grow in maturity, the maturity that is mentioned in Ephesians 4.

*11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

*Ephesians 4:11(ESV)*

## FAMILY LEADERS

### JOHN 17:6-8

*I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.*

Our vision for "Hope Family" is that the leadership of Hope Church would appoint Family Leaders. Family Leaders will be those who are ready to "Father and Mother" those in the faith and in life. Some of these "family leaders" will have a lifetime of experience when it comes to mentoring while others may be

doing this for the first time. It is our belief that everyone who is appointed has been equipped, by the Holy Spirit, to do His good work. There may be some who would like to be a Hope Family Leader but if they aren't appointed these individuals will be welcomed to be "family members" to grow as a leader and could eventually be appointed to be a "Hope Family Leader"

We believe that, just like with Jesus, there may be some Family Leaders who believe that there are "family members" the Father has already "given to them" and we want them to be able continue that relationship. There will also be some "family members" that Hope Church will give to the Family Leaders. Hope Families will be made up of individuals of both types.

We are asking all of our Hope Family leaders to pray and ask the Father who He is "giving them". The leadership is also praying that the Father guides us as we "give" family members to our Hope Family Leaders.

## FAMILY GROUP GATHERING

### **Ephesians 4:16**

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

It is our hope that our family groups will look a lot like the "Thanksgiving Table": A mix of all life experiences from young and old alike. It is our belief that each of us have something to offer the body and in our Hope Families we will be able to nurture the gifts of each individual to ensure that the whole body is "healthy and growing and full of love."

We understand that, just like our "natural family", it will look different from Hope Family to Hope Family. Though we want to allow for the Family Leader to have the freedom to lead and share the way the Father is leading them, we also want to help with some "tips" when it comes to your family group meeting.

## **FREQUENCY**

### **Hebrews 10:25**

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

It is our hope that Hope Family meet once a week, outside of the normal Sunday morning service at Hope. Some of our Family Leaders will be able to host their Hope Family in their home while others may need to have a designated spot that will enable them to hold their entire Hope Family. Hope Church will make some of the classrooms available for weekly gatherings if personal homes are not an option for a particular leader. The Family Leader and their Hope Family will have the freedom to decide what day of the week is best for them to gather.

## **PRAYER**

### **Isaiah 56:7**

*I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer.*

*I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.*

Though there may be times that Hope Church offers a particular prayer direction, our desire is that prayer time during Hope Family gatherings would be out of an overflow of personal prayer time of the Family Leaders and the Hope Family members. Prayer is an integral part of growing a family. We are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” and “His temple will be called a house of prayer”; WE are a house of prayer.

## **STUDY**

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

We also believe that time in study of the bible is an important part of building the family. Again, there may be times that Hope Church provides direction for your weekly gathering, when it comes to study, but it is our hope that these moments will come out of an overflow of the personal study time of the Hope Family Leader and the Hope Family member. Studying the same passage of the Bible and journaling throughout the week will help when it comes time to discuss what you've read.

## **MEAL**

### **Acts 2:46**

*They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.*

Families eat together. Whether it's with grandparents after church on Sunday's or that weeknight when the parents and children are around the dinner table, meal time together is a special time for connection and growth. As witnessed in Acts 2, the church came together and "shared meals". We believe that "time at the table" is a very important part of building family.

## **MISSION**

### **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Ultimately our mission is to “make disciples of all nations”. As soon as someone comes to follow Jesus they have taken the first step toward being a disciple maker. As we grow in our relationship with the Father, we begin to say what we hear Him saying and find ourselves doing what we see Him doing. “The Church” was never intended to be limited to the “four walls” of the temple but a marriage of time in the temple and time in homes. In Acts 2 there is a template offered where the believers gave to those in need, worshipped together in the temple and then gathered in homes, at the table, to share meals. The way forward for Hope is a model that incorporates time in the temple and time at the table. We want to create a church that isn’t dependent on the building but looks forward to coming together to worship, listen to teaching and share testimonies on a weekly basis. Throughout the week the church will gather in homes to encourage each other over meals, challenge each other to be the full expression of who they were created to be and “enjoy the goodwill of all people”.

It is our belief that as we live out the “Acts 2 model” we will see the church grow. As we see the church grow we will see the “body of Christ” impact our community. We believe that this is the next step forward to fulfilling the call that God has for Hope Church. Our goal is not to replicate what “the church” has been but to reproduce the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven by leading in spiritual and practical ways.

# S.O.A.P.

## BIBLE STUDY METHOD

**SCRIPTURE:** AS YOU READ, WRITE OUT THE VERSE(S) THAT STUCK OUT MOST TO YOU.

**OBSERVATION:** WHAT TRUTH CAN YOU LEARN? ARE THERE ANY WARNINGS? PRINCIPLES? COMMANDS? WHAT IS THE OVERALL MESSAGE OF THE VERSE?

**APPLICATION:** HOW DOES THIS VERSE APPLY TO YOUR LIFE TODAY? HOW CAN YOU LIVE DIFFERENTLY IN LIGHT OF THIS TRUTH?

**PRAYER:** TURN THESE THOUGHTS INTO PRAYER. ASK THE LORD TO SHOW YOU HOW MEDITATE ON AND APPLY THIS SCRIPTURE TO YOUR LIFE.

## What is a SOAP Journal?

The S.O.A.P journaling method promotes reading the Bible with a life-transforming purpose. No longer will your focus be on checking off the boxes on your daily reading schedule; your purpose will instead be to read in order to understand and respond to God's Word. Let's talk more about how to do a SOAP Journal.

### How do complete a SOAP Journal

The acronym S.O.A.P. stands for SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION and PRAYER. Each of these four steps contributes to creating an atmosphere to hear God speak. After settling on a reading plan and establishing a time for studying the Bible, you will be ready to hear from God.

For an illustration, let's assume that you begin your quiet time in the book of 2 Timothy, and today's reading is the first chapter of the book. Before reading the text, pause to sincerely ask God to speak to you. It may seem trite, but it is absolutely imperative that we seek God's guidance in order to understand the Bible. (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). Every time we open our Bibles, we should pray the simple prayer that David prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law (Word)" (Psalm 119:18).

After praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance, open your notebook or journal, and at the top left-hand corner, write the letter S. This exercise will remind you to read with a purpose. In the course of your reading, one or two verses will usually stand out and speak to you. After reading the passage of Scripture, Highlight each verse that speaks to you by copying it under the letter "S". Write out the following:

- The name of the book
- The passage of Scripture
- The chapter and verse numbers that especially speak to you
- A title to describe the passage

This practice will make it easier to find the passage when you want to revisit it in the future. After you have highlighted the passage, write the letter "O" under the previous entry. At this stage, you will OBSERVE what the text means. By asking some simple questions, with the help of God's Spirit, you can understand the meaning of a passage or verse.

Here are a few questions to get you started:

- Why was this written?
- To whom was it originally written?
- How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
- Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book?
- What is He intending to communicate through this text?

At this point, you are beginning the process of discovering the specific and personal word that God has for you from the Bible. What is important is that you are engaging the text and wrestling with its meaning.

After writing a short summary of what you think the text means, write the letter "A" below the letter "O". Under the "A", write the word Application. This application is the heart of the process. Everything you have done so far culminates under this heading. As you have done before, answer a series of questions to uncover the significance of these verses to you personally.

Here are a few questions to get you started:

- How can this help me?
- What does this mean today?
- What would the application of this verse look like in my life?
- What does this mean to me?
- What is God saying to me?

As you complete your SOAP journal, these questions bridge the gap between the ancient world and your world today. They provide a way for God to speak to you from the specific passage or verse. Answer these questions under the “A”. Challenge yourself to write between two and five sentences about how the text applies to your life.

Finally, below the first three entries, write the letter “P” for PRAYER. This is the last part of the SOAP Journal. Your prayerful response to the passage may take on many forms. You may write a call to action. You may describe how you will be different because of what God has said to you through the Bible. You may indicate what you are going to do because of what you have learned. You may respond by writing out a prayer to God. For example, you may ask God to help you to be more loving, or to give you a desire to be more generous in your giving. Keep in mind that this is your response to what you have just read.

By utilizing the SOAP Journal we become more engaged in the way we study the Bible. God does not want us to sit back and wait for Him to drop some truth into our laps. Instead of waiting passively, God desires that we actively pursue Him.

Jesus said, *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you* (Matthew 7:7).

.  
Study Resources:

- [StudyLight.org](http://StudyLight.org)
- The Bible Project on youtube [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com)
- [Blueletterbible.org](http://Blueletterbible.org)
- [bible.org](http://bible.org)

Hope Family Bible Reading Plan - OT

<b>IN THE BEGINNING</b>		30. The Story of Ruth	Ruth 1:1-4:22
1. Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:25	<b>THE RISE OF ISRAEL</b>	
2. The Fall	Genesis 3:1-3:24	31. Samuel Listens to God	1 Samuel 1:1-3:21
3. The Flood	Genesis 6:5-7:24	32. King Saul	1 Samuel 8:1-10:27
4. God's Covenant with Noah	Genesis 8:1-9:17	33. David and Goliath	1 Samuel 16:1-18:16
5. Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1- 11:9	34. David and Saul	1 Samuel 23:7-24:22
<b>ABRAHAM, ISSAC AND JACOB</b>		35. King David	2 Samuel 5:1-7:29
6. The Call of Abram	Genesis 12:1-12:20	<b>THE FALL OF ISRAEL</b>	
7. God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15:1-15:21	36. David and Bathsheba	2 Samuel 11:1-12:25
8. Isaac's Birth and "Sacrifice "	Genesis 21:1-22:19	37. King Solomon	1 Kings 2:1-3:28
9. Jacob and Esau Compete	Genesis 27:1-28:22	38. Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 8:1-9.9
10. Jacob and Esau Reconcile	Genesis 32:1-33:20	39. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 16:29-19:18
<b>THE STORY OF JOSEPH</b>		40. The Fall of Jerusalem	2 Kings 25:1-30
11. Sold into Slavery	Genesis 37:1-37:36	<b>PSALMS AND PROVERBS</b>	
12. Prison and Promotion	Genesis 39:1-41:57	41. The Lord is My Shepherd	Psalms 23:1-6
13. Ten Brothers Go to Egypt	Genesis 42:1-42:38	42. Have Mercy on Me	Psalms 51:1-19
14. The Brothers Return	Genesis 43:1-44:34	43. Praise the Lord	Psalms 103:1-22
15. Joseph Reveals His Identity	Genesis 45:1-46:7	44. Godly Wisdom	Proverbs 1:1-4:27
<b>MOSES AND THE EXODUS</b>		45. The Proverbs of Solomon	Proverbs 16:1-18:24
16. Birth of Moses	Exodus 1:1-2:25	<b>THE PROPHETS</b>	
17. The Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-4:17	46. The Suffering Servent	Isaiah 51:1-53:12
18. The Ten Plagues	Exodus 6:28-11:10	47. Jeremiah's Call and Message	Jeremiah 1:1-3:5
19. Passover and Exodus	Exodus 12:1-12:42	48. Daniel in the Lion's Den	Daniel 6:1-28
20. Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17-14:31	49. The Story of Jonah	Jonah 1:1-4:11
<b>THE LAW AND THE LAND</b>		50. The Day of Judgement	Malachi 1:1-4:6
21. The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1-20:21		
22. The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:1-34:35		
23. Joshua Succeeds Moses	Joshua 1:1-18		
24. Crossing The Jordan	Joshua 3:1-4:24		
25. The Fall of Jericho	Joshua 5:13-6:27		
<b>THE JUDGES</b>			
26. Israel's Disobedience	Judges 2:6-3:6		
27. Deborah Leads Israel	Judges 4:1-5:31		
28. Gideon Defeats the Midianites	Judges 6:1-7:25		
29. Samson Defeats Philistines	Judges 13:1-16:31		

Hope Family Bible Reading Plan - NT

<b>THE LIVING WORD</b>		80. The Trip to Rome	Acts 25:1-28:1
51. The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-18	<b>PAUL TO THE CHURCHES</b>	
52. Gabriel's Message	Luke 1:1-80	81. More Than Conquerors	Romans 8:1-39
53. The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-40	82. The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:16-6:10
54. John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-20	83. The Armor of God	Ephesians 6:10-20
55. Baptism and Temptation	Matthew 3:13-4:17	84. Rejoice in the Lord	Philippians 4:2-9
<b>THE TEACHING OF JESUS</b>		85. The Supremacy of Christ	Colossians 1:1-23
56. Sermon on the Mount, Part 1	Matthew 5:1-64	<b>PAUL TO THE LEADERS</b>	
57. Sermon on the Mount, Part 2	Matthew 6:5-7:29	86. Elders and Deacons	1 Timothy 3:1-16
58. The Kingdom of Heaven	Matthew 13:1-58	87. The Love of Money	1 Timothy 6:3-21
59. The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	88. Good Soldiers of Christ	2 Timothy 2:1-26
60. Lost and Found	Luke 15:1-32	89. All Scripture is God-breathed	2 Timothy 3:10-4:8
<b>THE MIRACLES OF JESUS</b>		90. The Coming of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
61. Feeding the Five Thousand	Luke 9:1-36	<b>THE APOSTLES' TEACHING</b>	
62. Walking on Water	Matthew 14:22-36	91. The Most Excellent Way	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
63. Healing a Blind Man	John 9:1-41	92. A New Creation in Christ	2 Corinthians 4:1-6:2
64. Healing a Demon-Possessed Man	Mark 5:1-20	93. A Living Hope	1 Peter 1:1-2:12
65. Raising Lazerus from the Dead	John 11:1-57	94. Faith and Works	James 1:1-2:26
<b>THE CROSS OF CHRIST</b>		95. Love One Another	1 John 3:11-4:21
66. The Last Supper	Luke 22:1-46	<b>THE REVELATION</b>	
67. Arrest and Trial	John 18:1-40	96. A Voice and a Vision	Revelation 1:1-20
68. The Crucifixion	John 19:1-42	97. Messages to the Churches	Revelation 2:1-3:22
69. The Resurrection	John 20:1-21:25	98. The Throne of Heaven	Revelation 4:1-7:17
70. The Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	99. Hallelujah!	Revelation 19:1-20:15
<b>THE CHURCH IS BORN</b>		100. The New Jerusalem	Revelation 21:1-22:21
71. The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1:47		
72. Growth and Persecution	Acts 3:1-4:37		
73. The First Martyr	Acts 6:8-8:8		
74. Sharing the Word	Acts 8:26-40		
75. Good News For All	Acts 10:1-11:18		
<b>TRAVELS OF PAUL</b>			
76. The Road to Damascus	Acts 9:1-31		
77. The First Missionary Journey	Acts 13:1-14:28		
78. The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-41		
79. More Missionary Journeys	Acts 16:1-20:38		



## Sample Scripture Memory Card

Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and he will lift you up in honor.

JAMES 4:10

## **ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS**

1. Have you spent time reading the Bible and in prayer this week?
2. How did you take an opportunity to share or live out the gospel this week?
3. Have you spent quality time with your family this week?
4. Did you have any moments where you reacted in a way that wasn't "Christ-like"?
5. What is an area you are being challenged to be more like Jesus?

## How To Structure Your Discussion (Sample)

Begin with fellowship and meal

After meal:

If mixed company, split up in women and men. This will help everyone feel a little better when it comes to sharing openly. You might also split up if your group is larger and you feel splitting up might help with vulnerability.

Ask each participant to present one prayer request at the start of each meeting. Assign a person to pray over the requests, and ask the Lord to sharpen each of you through your relationship.

Here are some additional elements that your weekly meetings can include:

- Have a time of intentional conversation by sharing the highs and lows of the week. You can also share celebrations and praises.
- Quote your Scripture memory verses for the week.
- Discuss Bible readings from the week. A great way to do this is to share SOAP journals from the week.

The goal of studying the Bible is to apply the what you read. Remember, knowledge without application is powerless.

Here are some sample questions to help kickstart group discussion:

- What are you hearing from God, and what are you doing about it?
- What is God teaching you, and how is it affecting your life?

Good application questions for examining a text:

- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about fallen humanity that requires the grace of God?
- How does this text point to Christ?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there an action or attitude to avoid or embrace?
- Is there a principle to apply?

Spend a few moments asking questions and keeping each other accountable.

You can't expect what you don't inspect. Remember, all accountability should be saturated with grace, not legalism.

Share prayer requests and close with prayer.

## MEETING FORMAT SUGGESTIONS

I want to be clear that this “handbook” is only a book of suggestions when it comes to the way you could facilitate your Hope Family. As you begin to connect with your family and learn to share from your overflow you may not need the direction of this handbook. I will say that many need direction when it comes to spending time in the Bible and with the Lord. This could be a nice “starter” for your Hope Family.

Below are a few recommendations on things you could do when you are sharing during your Hope Family gathering.

1. S.O.A.P. Journal review
  1. Have each person read daily assigned scriptures and fill out a S.O.A.P. Journal each day.
  2. Have each person share one journal entry during your gathering.
2. Pray through the scripture
  1. Choose a passage that has stood out and or spoken to you through out your week and go around the room having each person read a portion and then pray that portion.
3. When meeting in “mixed couples” you might consider splitting into “men” and “women” so that everyone feels a little safer in sharing. You could come back together at the end to pray together.
4. We aren’t trying to replicate the Sunday morning church. We are trying to create an atmosphere that reproduces Jesus in the way we live. Everyone contributing and being “stretched” to become everything they were created to be.
5. Spending time in the Bible is one of the most important parts of your meeting time. We have found that having a specific passage or section of scripture for everyone to read and journal about each week is the most effective way to spark discussion.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Below are a handful of questions that we have received over the past few months when it comes to Hope Family.

### **1. Will the church be offering childcare for Hope Family gatherings?**

At this time the church will not be offering KidCare for your gatherings. If you think it best to have childcare it would be the responsibility of the parents to provide for that.

### **2. What if I have an issue that I'm not sure how to resolve with one of my "family members"?**

Each "family leader" will be assigned to an oversight pastor that will be available to give the support you need to deal with any issues that may arise.

### **3. Do you have any recommended reading when it comes to discipleship?**

Though we do believe that true discipleship happens when one shares from their personal overflow from time with the Lord and personal stories of experiences and encounters we do have a list of books you could read to help offer support in your discipleship journey.

MULTIPLY (Disciples Making Disciples) - Francis Chan

GROWING UP (How To Be a Disciple Who Makes A Disciple) - Robby Gallaty

Real-Life Discipleship (Building Churches That Make Disciples) - Jim Putman

### **4. How do we encourage vulnerability in our group when it is a blend of men and women?**

We would recommend breaking your time together into "thirds". First third have meal together. Middle third split up into groups of men and women. Final third come back together to discuss things together. You can break this up however you choose but we found that people of the opposite sex will only go so "deep" when in mixed company.

### **5. How do I know when it is time for my group to split or for one of my family members to start own "Hope Family"?**

Naturally we believe it is very important for Hope Family leaders to help their family members realize that they are to "ask the Father for the ones He has given them" asap. There may be people that are ready to lead a family as soon as they are in your family while others may never be a family leader but no matter where they are on this scale there is one thing for sure they are called to be a disciple maker. Every four months or so we will meet with family leaders to assess the health of their family. In the "health assessment" you will discuss group dynamics, size and possible promotion to "family leader" of a family member.