

# **The Genesis of Good News**

## **Hope and Healing**

### **Group Leader Guide**

#### **RECAP**

Pastor Keith's sermon emphasizes the inherent human desire for hope, using "Lord of the Rings" as a metaphor. He stresses that people often misplace their hopes in politics or societal philosophies, but these inevitably fail. He argues that true hope cannot be found in politicians or political systems, as evidenced by unmet expectations in recent elections.

He contrasts the two types of people mentioned in the Bible: those who believe the serpent's lie and those who believe God's truth. The sermon underscores the importance of trusting in Jesus and surrendering control to God, rather than relying on human systems or personal abilities.

Pastor Keith emphasizes that Jesus offers a unique and singular hope that transcends all political and societal upheavals. He encourages the congregation to anchor their faith in Jesus alone, assuring them that this will bring genuine peace and confidence. Finally, he calls on the listeners to live out this hope by carrying the message of healing and life wherever they go, fulfilling their roles in diverse spheres like schools, government, and the arts. The sermon concludes with a prayer for commitment and worship, reaffirming the need for God's presence and leadership in believers' lives.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

"What does the concept of hope mean to you, and how do you see it playing a role in your life when facing uncertainty or challenging times?"

#### **LIVING OUT THE TRUTH**

1. Pastor Keith refers to the 'hunger for hope' seen in humanity and popular media. Can you share an example from your own life where you experienced this hunger for hope?
2. The sermon mentions that politics and governance are poor places to put one's hope. Why do you think people continue to place hope in political leaders despite this sentiment?
3. According to the sermon, humanity often believes that different 'isms' (philosophies and ideologies) can fix the world's problems. Can you think of an example where a particular 'ism' failed to provide the solutions it promised?
4. Pastor Keith talks about the Genesis 3 prophecy as a promise of hope. How does this Old Testament prophecy connect to the New Testament's message about Jesus?
5. The concept of 'offspring of the serpent' versus 'offspring of the woman' is used metaphorically in the sermon. How do you understand this division in the context of modern life?

6. Pastor Keith suggests that true hope and healing can only come from Jesus. How can this belief impact how you deal with personal and societal challenges?

7. The sermon ends with a call to be 'refreshed' by placing hope in God alone. What are practical ways you can incorporate this message into your daily life and decisions?

### **PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, We come before you with hearts filled with gratitude for the truths revealed in our study today. Thank you for reminding us that our ultimate hope lies not in the things of this world, but in Christ alone. As we go out into our daily lives, help us to anchor our faith in Jesus, who is the true source of healing and hope. Lord, we pray that you would guide our steps and grant us courage to live out our faith boldly. May we be instruments of your peace and conduits of your love to those around us. Let your light shine through us so that others may see your goodness and glorify your name. We ask for your protection and wisdom in all that we do. Strengthen our hearts to stand firm in your truth, and help us to be a reflection of your grace in every situation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.