



## BIG IDEA

**We bring hope to others by understanding “once we were” “but now we are” “that we may.”**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Recall a time when you were younger, and you had a wish. How does this differ from hope or a wish that you might have today?

Encourage your group to look at how they have matured. Specifically, how has their faith and understanding of hope changed from wishful thinking to hope in the person of Jesus Christ.

Discuss the differences between the lives of those who follow Christ and of those who do not. What stands out to you about the characteristics of those who do follow Christ?

Encourage people to look at their own life. What were they like before Jesus came into their life? Discuss the foundation of Jesus and how that makes a difference in how people deal with storms and challenges in life.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Matthew 5:14-16.** Based on what we know about the characteristics of those who follow Christ, what themes are you noticing?

Look at the images of a cornerstone and a light for all to see. These should be ways that Christians are described. Discuss why Christians do and sometimes don't display these characteristics.

How does this week's big idea challenge your understanding of what it means to live as a follower of Christ?

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What feelings come to mind when you hear the word priest? Do those feelings change after reading **Matthew 5:14-16**? Why or Why not?

Many will think of things they have heard about Catholic Priests. It is important to point out that the priests of the Bible were seen in a very different light. They had a responsibility to God and man.

In the message, we learned that as priests we represent God to people. How does this realization challenge you?

This can be a very interesting discussion about responsibility. More mature groups might need to look into the level at which they take on the role as priest.





# LIFE GROUPS

SERMON COMPANION

**Read Matthew 7:24-27.** As those in your life observed you over the past year, would it be clear where you have built your foundation? In what way?

## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How would you live your life differently if you saw yourself as a priest in your community?

Encourage your group to challenge themselves to take on the role of priest. Make some suggestions to how they might do that.

What might our conversations begin to look like if we entered into them without judgement, but instead with a mindset of who we are as priests?

This is a good place for all groups to discuss how better conversations with people can start. Take the time to discuss effective ways to engage people in conversation. Share best practices.

In what ways can you be a priest to someone in your life this week?

Encourage your group to make a goal. Bless someone in a very specific way this week. Spend a few minutes as a group in listening prayer. Ask God what that might look like for you.

Take 5 minutes of silence. Ask people to talk about the people, images or scriptures that have come to mind. What is God saying to your group? How can you support each other this week?

