

# HOPE

A Good Place to Find Life

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## Small Group Discussion Guide — FEBRUARY 15, 2026

- Series: Seek Peace and Pursue It
- Sermon: Appeal to the Court
- Scripture: Psalm 54

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### CONNECT

1. If you could ask God one “how to” question, what would it be and why?

### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Did you take any courageous steps toward peace this past week even though you couldn't control how someone would respond to that step? (phone call, conversation, setting boundaries?)

### ENGAGE

Psalm 54 has seven verses. Read them aloud. Keep in mind that this psalm was written when King Saul sought to kill David, the author of this psalm

1. From these verses how is the author of this psalm, David, feeling? How would you describe his state of mind? Where is he placing his trust despite his feelings, and how can you tell?
2. King David does three main things in this psalm, one in verse 2 and two in verse 6. What are they? What do they reveal about him? What does his actions reveal about how he seeks help in life? What can we learn from King David here?
3. Throughout the psalm, King David asks God to save him, to vindicate him and to recoil evil from him. What does it mean for God to save? To vindicate? To recoil evil from someone?

### APPLY

1. Have you ever had an individual oppose you, someone really against you, your ideas, your faith, your opinion, or your stance on some issue? Please describe your experience.
2. What are some of the first things you do when people oppose you or have done evil to you? When people oppose you and “get under your skin,” what are some of the first things that come to mind of how to address such opposition? How do you address the tension between allowing God to pursue justice in the situation versus pursuing your own thoughts of “vengeance justice?”

3. Pastor David reminded us that Jesus taught that we humans are not good at seeing our own faults. Have you ever had a shortcoming of yours pointed out to you by someone? Please share one if comfortable doing so. How did it make you feel when you heard it? If you acknowledged the shortcoming, what benefit did you receive because of your willingness to do so?
4. Self-righteousness, a desire to prove we are right and others are wrong is a challenge for all human beings, Christians included. But a deep understanding of righteousness should lead us as believers in Christ to know that our righteousness is accomplished in Jesus, and Him alone. How do we arrive and live our lives with this realization in mind? Think of Romans 12:17-19 and the principles embedded in these verses.

## **GOING DEEPER**

Pastor David stated that a big question in life is, "what will YOU do about the challenges in your life - not what will someone else do about what you don't like in the world." Meditate on this thought, and what your challenges are right now. Pray about them today and in the future. Memorize the following verse to remind you of God's faithfulness - Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, search my heart, and cleanse me from any self-righteousness that may be present. Always remind me to seek You and You alone when opposition comes my way. Help me to always remember that you are my righteousness and that I can trust You to be my rock, my shield, my salvation.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 73:16-17, 21-22

Romans 12:17-19

Matthew 7:4

## **QUOTES**

"You have no enemies," you say? Alas, my friend, the boast is poor; He who has mingled in the fray of duty that the brave endure, must have made foes! If you have none, small is the work that you have done. You've hit no traitor on the hip, you've dashed no cup from perjured lip, You've never turned the wrong to right, You've been a coward in the fight." - Charles Mackay

Forgiveness has power both for the forgiver and for the forgiven. Experiencing forgiveness in either direction provides a wonderful release from bondage - whether that bondage is to bitterness or to guilt. – John Perkins