

LIFE MONEY HOPE

Part 2:

Big Idea

In this week's segment of "Life, Money, Hope," Pastor Chris focused his message on those of us who find ourselves in a dark place in life, whether financially, morally, or otherwise. God's desire is to help us find a way out of this dark place, and in order to get out, we have to figure out how we got there in the first place. Often, our path to the dark place begins when we believe a lie and become convinced that our lives are about us. When we chase our own happiness through the world's means, we set ourselves on a path for destruction. Once we have believed the lie, we engage in self-destructive behavior. And when that behavior causes our lives to spin out of control, we isolate ourselves from those who can help us, claiming that they won't understand. This process leads us to the dark place – and that's the last place that God desires for us to be! He has intended for us to be free. So what is the way out? First, we need to acknowledge the reality of where we are. God isn't expecting you to be perfect – He desires for you to be honest. He can work with honesty! Next, we need to develop a plan of attack to get ourselves free from the mess we've made. Then, we simply need to take action – to carry out that plan *now*. And we must be sure to humbly ask our Father for help, because we cannot do it without Him. He is faithful; He will help us. There is no "point of no return" for a God who raises the dead! There is always a way out!

"All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit; He'll always be there to help you come through it." – 1 Corinthians 10:13 MSG

Discussion Questions

- Pastor Chris said self-destructive behavior is the product of our life getting out of order in any area – spiritually, emotionally, relationally or physically. Share with the group which area of your life needs the most attention right now and what steps are necessary to get it back in order.
- Read Proverbs 18:1. (*Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Proverbs 18:1 ESV*) Think of a time you found yourself isolated. Share who encouraged you during that time and how you connected to life giving relationships.
- Pastor Chris explained that God isn't looking for perfection, He's looking for honesty. Take a moment to evaluate your life right now – is there something you are struggling to acknowledge? Share what steps you will take to begin developing your plan of attack.

Prayer Focus

Ask the Lord if there are any areas of your life that need to be addressed in this way. Confess the reality of your situation to Him and ask Him to help you find the way out. Ask Him for wisdom and insight to develop a plan of attack. Pray that He would show you the right people with whom you can trust the delicacy of your situation. Continually surrender the situation to the Lord, trusting Him to carry you through it.

Next Step

Ask God for wisdom in developing a plan of attack to get you out of the mess. Ask a wise person in your life to help you develop this plan. Carry out the plan, humbly asking God to help you find freedom.

Leader Tip

Invite and encourage your group members to attend the Growth Track as a group. For times and locations visit:
www.churchofthehighlands.com/connect/growth-track