

## **Master Teacher Key Study**

### **THE LIGHT OF HOPE**

(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

*Use this outline to share the Biblical Truth with students. The underlined words correspond to the blanks on the Master Teacher Student Worksheet.*

#### **Intro: What would change if we saw our lives and the world through God's eyes?**

**Description:** Paul prayed for his readers to grasp all the many treasures in Christ. The Ephesians were previously "darkened in their understanding" (Eph. 4:18) but now their eyes had been opened to Christ. Paul prayed for those who already knew Christ that they would now know him better and deeper. Paul desired those who had met Christ to personally experience everything that was already theirs: a future hope, a rich inheritance, and a present mighty power.

**Illustration:** Have you ever drunk something that you thought was something else? Say you picked up a glass of Sprite, only to find out that it was actually sparkling water. As you made a mean bitter face, you sat down your glass with disappointment. We think we know what's before us, but we don't fully realize what we really have. In the same way, we might think that we fully know Christ, but we can always know Him better. Paul prayed for our limited view of Christ to be expanded and renewed.

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#### **1. Hope is found when people know the light of Christ (Eph. 1:18).**

**Description:** Paul prayed that the Ephesians would hold on to hope, which is the purpose for why God called them. Paul encouraged believers to realize that God has their future in mind. Before the Ephesians believed in Christ, they had no hope (Eph. 2:12). God called them out of hopelessness, and they responded in faithfulness (Eph. 1:2). They now had a hope worth pursuing: Christ. God's past calling gave them a present assurance and a hope for the future.

**Illustration:** The world is filled with hopelessness. The following are online posts from students age 13-19 in the U.S. "I feel so hopeless and empty and utterly alone." "I feel like it is so hopeless that I won't find a girl who likes or loves me," "I feel hopeless and, really, home is dead to me." "I feel hopeless to lose weight, so I just stare at skinny girls." "I am feeling hopeless and incapable of mustering up the courage to be myself around my peers." We might have moments in which our spirits are low in life. But if we realize what Christ had done for us, we will never be hopeless no matter what life throws our way.

**Application:** What is your hope? Is it money? In the end, you cannot take it with you. Is it a career? All careers will one day end. Is it relationships? All relationships will be broken and never become complete bliss. God rescued us from darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of light to give us a hope that will last.

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#### **2. God values His people as a glorious treasure (Eph. 1:18).**

**Description:** Paul often reminded his readers that God is their inheritance (Eph. 1:11, Col. 1:12). In this verse, Paul wanted the Ephesians to see that they are God's inheritance. Consider this: God created the sparkling stars, the monstrous mountains, and the vast ocean, yet we are what

he prizes most in all of creation. He treasures us so that He can display His glory through us for the entire world to see.

**Illustration:** Geocaching is a treasure hunting game in which people go out and find hidden containers (geocaches) using a GPS. People all over the world hide these small treasures for others to discover. Once the geocache is discovered, a person usually opens the container to find a logbook where he signs his name and record the date that he found it. It is then placed back so that others can continue to play the game. It's a great game to play with your friends and family if you are in the treasure-hunting mood. The treasure and reward many get from playing is often in the adventure itself. God, on the other hand, finds us and keeps us for His glory. When He finds us, it is more than a game to Him. It is His heart's ambition and desire to find what is lost and make it His treasure.

**Application:** When God looks at us, He sees Christ and, therefore, He can't help but treasure us. There is no other option for those who are in Christ. He treasures the real you, not some pretend saintly version of you. When we see that God values us like that, we don't have to look for value elsewhere. As a result, we can have the true power to give to others because we aren't looking for value or praise in return.

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### **3. Nothing is greater than the life-changing power of the gospel (Eph. 1:19-23).**

**Description:** Greatness. Power. Work. Strength. Paul used all of these words in one verse as he searched for human words to describe the matchless power that we have in Christ. This power was achieved not by military prowess or a political power play. Rather, Jesus died a humble, obedient death, and God raised him from the dead. The resurrection displayed God's greatest power, which both saves us for His eternal purposes and sustains us through daily life.

**Illustration:** *The Hulk* roller coaster in Orlando, Fla., launches riders 150 feet in the air as it accelerates from zero to 40 mph in two seconds! That power is equal to a jet taking off an aircraft carrier! You will need to hang on as you reach speeds topping out at 67 mph. One of the forces that make this ride great is the g-force, which is a measure of acceleration due to gravity. While these forces are extremely powerful, they also keep riders safe when a coaster loops. The powerful force prohibits riders from falling to the ground. Experiencing the power of the Hulk is an adventure. We also have a spiritual power in Christ that can be experienced now. How is this power measured in us? Not in g-forces—but by Christ's resurrection. Christ's power is shown by the resurrection, and we have the same power in us.

**Application:** Christ's power doesn't promise us a trouble-free life, but it does give us the resources and strength to keep us secure and confident during all troubles—even in the face of suffering and death. The more we meditate on this resurrection power in us, the more capable we are to overcome sin and face anything in this life. This world has no power over us.

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**Conclusion: God grants hope, value, and power to everyone who looks to Him.**

**Application:** Time after time, we fail to desire God on our own. Like Paul, we need to pray for one another and for ourselves to realize all the treasures that we have in Christ. Some might be wondering, "What if I still do not desire God's hope and power?" If that is your concern, then ask God to give you a deeper desire to know Him, and He will grant it to you. Tell Him what you feel, and ask Him to move toward you. He will grant you hope, love, and power when you meet with Him in weakness.