



“May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Romans 15:13**

To view the accompanying video, go to <https://momsinprayer.org/igniting-hope-bible-study/>

Notes for Small Group Discussion: Once you have watched the video, “Empowered” take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Briefly talk about the concepts and biblical examples. Share with your group a choice you need to make that will help you. Consider practical ways to find accountability with these truths.

1. Look at the theme verse **Romans 15:13**, “May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Some translations will use “the source of hope” instead of “God of hope”. God is both the origin of our hope and the object of our hope. Knowing that our hope does not come from people or circumstances and knowing that God is our hope source, how would you say that changes your perspective on life?
2. *The Scriptures either tell us something about God and Christ when we are reading so that we can praise him. Or, they tell us something about what God and Christ and the Holy Spirit have done so that we can thank him and express faith in it. Or, they tell us what God expects from us so that we can cry out for his help. Or, they tell us about something we failed to do so that we can confess our sins. So, it seems to me that virtually all the Bible is doing one or more of those four things: something about God, something about what he has done, something about what he expects, something about how we have failed, so that they naturally lead into praise to God, thanks to God, crying for help to God, and confession of sin to God. – John Piper*

I love this quote because it connects our past three weeks of study with the action of prayer. Because God is trustworthy, because the Scriptures are true and because our words matter, we can let God’s Word empower our speaking to Him in prayer. In the above quote circle the ways we can use the Scriptures to prompt our prayers.

3. A quick google search for *empower* shows this definition: to give (someone) the authority or power to do something and to make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

Although, God empowers his daughters in many ways, the first part of this definition is broken down below specifically in regards to prayer. Underline anything that makes you more confident as you pray.

<p style="text-align: center;">Authority Because of Jesus I have authority to approach God in prayer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Power God’s power is unleashed as I pray</p>
<p>We can do nothing of ourselves. Jesus made that perfectly clear as He said, “apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). When we pray "in Jesus’ name", we affirm that it is only through his atoning death that we have access into the presence of God the Father. There is nothing in ourselves that we can recommend to God; it is Jesus who makes our audience with the Father a reality. Jesus is the one mediator between God and man and our great High Priest, who continually lives to make intercession for us. Thus when we pray "in Jesus' name" we are acknowledging that it is only through Jesus – Who He is and what He has done – that we can approach God our Father. To end a prayer, “I ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen,” is an admission that we have no authority to make requests of God the Father apart from the authority granted to us by His Son.</p>	<p>The power of prayer is not the result of the person praying. Rather, the power resides in the God who is being prayed to. God's help through the power of prayer is available for all kinds of requests and issues. Prayer places us in contact with Almighty God, and we should expect almighty results, whether or not He chooses to grant our petitions or deny our requests. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Whatever the answer to our prayers, the God to whom we pray is the source of the power of prayer, and He can and will answer us, according to His perfect will and timing.</p>

4. God empowers us as we claim His promises. There are approximately 3000 promises in the Bible. The promises in God’s Word apply to many of life’s situations. They are the very words of life that will break down the walls of your prisons, lift you out of despair and give you the hope, strength and courage to carry on.

2 Corinthians 1:20 says “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” **2 Peter 1:4** further declares, “And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” Some promises in Scripture are for a general audience and some are for a specific person. However, all of God’s promises can teach us about His character and goodness. So as we pray the promises of God we should word our prayers accordingly.

Write out the promise by the scripture reference.

Types of Promises		
Unconditional Promise	Conditional Promise	Specific Person Promise
This is a promise that is made without attaching any conditions whatsoever.	This type of promise is subject to certain qualifications or requirements.	This type of promise was made to a specific person.
Psalm 145:6	Matthew 6:33	Genesis 12:2–3

5. *Lord, help me to have a greater knowledge of Your Word so that I will always pray in alignment with your will. I know the power I have in prayer is your power working through me. — Stormie Omartian*

When we align Scripture, prayer and God’s will, we have a powerful tool for making a difference not only in our lives but in our loved one’s life. When we use Scriptures to pray for someone, we are always praying the will of God because His Word is His will.

It is not “my will be done” but “God’s will be done”. Therefore, we need to ask in accordance with His will for us. First John 5:14 says, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us.”

<p>Sally Burke, President of Moms in Prayer, explains it like this in her book <i>Raise Them Up</i></p>	<p>“God’s Word is His will. And as you pray His Word on behalf of another, you will unleash His power to do His will. His Word is powerful! God formed all things by His creative Word and continues to govern all things by the power of His Word. Prayer using God’s Word is an unstoppable force.”</p>
<p>Fern Nichols, Founder of Moms in Prayer, explains it like this in her book <i>Standing in the Gap</i></p>	<p>“God’s Word also teaches us how to pray rightly. When we pray back Scripture, we’re praying God’s will. This brings peace, faith and hope to an anxious heart because God’s Word says, ‘My word that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it’ (Isaiah 55:11 AMP)”</p>

Look at the three examples of scripture-prayers below and note: Did the person praying see the answer to the scripture-prayer? Was the scripture-prayer answered the way the person thought?

Example One

Jesus prays in **John 17:17**, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” I prayed this verse the other day for my son, I want nothing more for God to sanctify him with the truth of God. Let’s look at what sanctification means in a general sense. It is "the state of proper functioning." To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the **use intended by its designer**. A pen is "sanctified" when used to write. Eyeglasses are "sanctified" when used to improve sight. In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose. Notice I am not praying that my son is sanctified by my will. God has placed me in the role as his Mom and wants me to guide him and share my values and experiences with him. There are gifts and talents I see in him that I ask God to bring out. However, the Creator God has plans and purposes for him that even as his Mom I don’t know about and I trust His plan for my son’s life. I know God is good and I want my son to live in the fullness of ALL God created him to be.

Lord I ask that you sanctify _____ by the truth; your word if truth.

From John 17:17

Example Two:

Sally Burke, President of Moms in Prayer, shares this story in her new book, *Raise Them Up*. “One year, while I was praying for my oldest, I witnessed how God’s ways are always higher than mine for my children. That particular year on the baseball team, he was sitting on the bench most of the game. Of course, I thought he should be playing more. Can you relate? At the game I would pray that he would hit a home run or make the winning catch. Yet in my Moms in Prayer group, I was praying Scripture over him, like Philippians 2:14-16: ‘Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.’”

“He never hit the home run or caught the winning catch, but my son’s coach came up to me one day and asked if my son was a Christian. I replied, ‘Yes,’ and asked why he was asking. He explained that my son did everything without complaining and grumbling and was an example to all on his team. The Lord showed me that the souls of the lost are much more important than the home runs I was praying for. God’s ways are always greater than my ways. Today, many have come to know Jesus through my son! Praying the Scripture for him did not come back void, but my worldly desires did. ‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away’” Matthew 24:35 (NASB).

Lord, help _____ do everything without grumbling or arguing so that he/she will become blameless and pure, a child of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Help _____ shine among them like stars in the sky, as he/she holds firmly to Your word of life.

From Philippians 2:14-16

Example Three:

When my son was about 10 we had a habit of praying each night before he went to sleep. The lights would be off in his room and I would stand by the door and he would be tucked in his bed ready to sleep. Now at that time he really wanted to hit a home run more than anything. One Friday night as we prayed he asked God to help him hit a home run at his baseball game the next day. Truthfully, I sort of cringed as I heard the words come out of his mouth as I thought I would need to explain that God doesn’t answer every request with a “Yes”. Well sure enough God did answer “yes” and the next day he hit his first home run. He was so excited and we delighted in God for his “yes” answer to that prayer. I realized that God had revealed himself in a way my 10 year old could grasp it. As I was pondering this, I was reminded that the verse below has been prayed over my son in my Moms in Prayer group. We don’t always get to see the ways God answers our prayers but I am so thankful that sometimes we do.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that he/she may know You better.

From Ephesians 1:17

6. Pick one or two of the scripture-prayers below to pray for your child, yourself or a loved one now.

Lord I ask that you sanctify _____ by the truth; your word is truth. From John 17:17

Lord, help _____ do everything without grumbling or arguing so that he/she will become blameless and pure, a child of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Help _____ shine among them like stars in the sky, as he/she holds firmly to Your word of life. From Philippians 2:14-16

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that he/she may know You better. From Ephesians 1:17

Guide _____ in the way of wisdom and lead _____ along straight paths. From Proverbs 4:11

May _____ love You, the Lord our God, with all his/her heart and with all his/her soul and with all his/her mind and with all his/her strength. From Mark 12:30

May the God of hope fill _____ with all joy and peace as he/she trusts in You, so that _____ may overflow with hope by the power of Your Holy Spirit. From Romans 15:13

7. What have you learned over the past few weeks that has ignited hope in you?

What have you learned over the past few weeks that has given you a godly perspective in our uncertain world?



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