



Ministry of Biblical Studies

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY SERIES

January 22nd @ 11am | Signs of Hope

2025

Embracing the Miraculous Journey Ahead:

MIRACLES SIGNS WONDERS

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16: 17-18



Metropolitan Community Church
4610 S Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church Ministry of Biblical Study Classes

January 22, 2025

“Signs of Hope”

11:00am - 11:45am

Objective:

To explore how God provides signs of hope in Scripture, in our lives, and in the world, and to encourage believers to be beacons of hope to others.

Key Scripture Passage:

1. 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.”

I. Understanding Hope in Scripture

Definition of Hope

- Hope is confident expectation rooted in God’s faithfulness. It is not wishful thinking but assurance in His promises.
- Hebrews 10:23 - *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”*

Biblical Examples of Hope

- Noah: The rainbow as a sign of God’s covenant and promise (Genesis 9:12-17).
- Abraham: God’s promise of a son despite impossible circumstances (Romans 4:18-21).
- Jesus: His resurrection as the ultimate sign of hope for humanity (1 Peter 1:3).

Discussion Question:

- What does God’s faithfulness in these examples teach us about maintaining hope in difficult times?

II. Recognizing Signs of Hope in Our Lives

Personal Signs of Hope

- **Prayer Answered:** Times when God has responded to your prayers.
- **Provision:** Unexpected blessings that meet your needs.
- **Restoration:** Rebuilding relationships or overcoming struggles.

Community Signs of Hope

- Acts of kindness, unity, and progress within your church or neighborhood.
- Testimonies of others that inspire faith and perseverance.

Activity:

- Share a moment when you experienced or witnessed a sign of hope that encouraged you to keep trusting God.

III. Living As a Sign of Hope

Becoming Hope Bearers

- Isaiah 61:1 - *"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."*
- Encourage others through words of affirmation, acts of kindness, and prayer.

Faith in Action

- Matthew 5:14-16 - *"You are the light of the world."* Be intentional in reflecting hope in dark situations.
- Support others by sharing your testimony of how God has been faithful.

Pointing to the Ultimate Hope

- Direct others to Jesus, the source of lasting hope (John 14:6).
- Emphasize the eternal hope we have in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

IV. The Power of Hope to Transform

Hope Brings Renewal

- Isaiah 40:31 - *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."*
- Hope gives us strength to persevere and move forward.

Hope as a Testimony

- 1 Peter 3:15 - *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*
- Your hope can inspire others to seek God.

Discussion Question:

- How can we as a church be intentional about spreading hope in our community?

Conclusion and Application

- **Reflection:** Identify signs of hope God has placed in your life this week.
- **Action:** Write down one way you can be a sign of hope to someone in need and act on it.

Memory Verse:

Jeremiah 29:11 - *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Closing Prayer:

"Father, we thank You for being the God of hope who never fails. Open our eyes to the signs of hope You provide daily. Fill us with Your joy and peace so that we may overflow with hope to a world in need. Use us as instruments of Your light and love. In Jesus' name, Amen."

