

# ROYALS

## PURSUE RELATIONALLY

To kick things off, go around the circle, and answer the following statement:

What is one thing you are hoping to get for Christmas this year?

## LIVE AUTHENTICALLY

Welcome to our new series Royals. In this series, we are talking about having everything you need to overcome whatever life throws at you. As Royals, you never have to feel stuck, you can always move forward, you can always be kinged and you're never backed into a corner.

Before we jump into this week's discussion let's take a few minutes to catch up with one another and check how we are doing spiritually.

What are you hopeful for about the Christmas season?

Is there anything that is difficult for you during the Christmas season?

LIFEWAY  
LIFE





## COUNSEL BIBLICALLY

This week Mike reminded us that we are Royals and that because we are a child of God, we have a hope. There is no doubt that life can be difficult and there are times when we feel like we are stuck. Stuck in sin, stuck in loneliness, stuck in depression, stuck in illness, etc. However, God has given us a hope that can help us move forward, when we see things with an eternal perspective, because our destination should motivate our determination to move forward.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-9**

Is heaven and eternity something you think about often?

Why or why not? On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you of the hope you have in Christ?

Paul makes it very clear in this passage: if you are a Christ-follower, you can be very confident that when you die and leave your mortal body, then you will one day receive a body that is immortal. You will be perfect with no more pain, no more sorrow, no more feeling stuck. Not only will you have a new body, but you will fully experience God. It is this hope that can help us move forward in life, when we can learn to apply this hope that we have already been given by trusting Christ.

However, the problem is that many Christ-followers take their eyes off of their relationship with Christ. Many Christ-followers never grow in their experience of God, and therefore, their faith and trust in him never grows. This results in not being able to apply the hope we have in Jesus to our current trials or struggles. We end up focusing solely on the trial rather than on the destination. If this is where you currently find yourself, you are not alone.



## Read Matthew 14:25-31

In this story Peter takes an enormous step of faith, literally. Peter boldly asks Jesus to call him out onto the waters to walk with him. Peter has complete faith in the hope of who Christ is and knew that if he asked Jesus for the strength to do something, and Jesus gave him his word, then he would be able to accomplish it.

The trouble comes the moment Peter takes his eyes off of Christ. That is when he begins to sink. Verse 30 tells us that the moment that Peter was reminded of the waves and the wind of the storm that was surrounding him, he could no longer move forward but began to sink. Jesus is trying to remind Peter that the same hope in Christ that got him to step out of the boat in the first place is the same hope that will sustain him in the middle of any storm.

The moment that Peter called out to him, Jesus rescues him. Jesus is trying to help Peter understand that the storm going on around him is not where his attention needed to be, but rather fixed firmly on Christ. His attention needed to be fixed on what Jesus promised him; he is a Royal. With his attention fixed on Jesus, Peter could always move forward.

The same is true for you as a Christ-follower. No matter what you are currently walking through, or even if you feel stuck right now, God wants to help you move forward.

Is there currently a storm in your life where you're focused on the circumstance you're in, rather than on the Hope that Christ has already given you? Share with the group.



This week Mike taught us three different ways you may “know” God. Knowledge can be factual: maybe you know all of the facts or historical evidence about God. Knowledge can be abstract: maybe you have a broad understanding of God, you know that he is the God of the universe.

However, the most impactful form of knowledge is experiential. Maybe you have experienced God work in your life, whether it be healing a family member or the money to provide for a need from an unknown source. This experiential knowledge of God is what reminds us that God is faithful and can be trusted. Therefore, we can be confident in the hope we have been given as Royals.

## **DEVOTE DAILY**

This week, find a way to experience God. For you, that may mean diving back into your bible daily. It may mean praying throughout the day, or just thanking Him each day for what he has provided for you. Experiencing God is about drawing close to God, so that He can draw close to you. When you do this, you will begin to experience Him and He will become more real in your current situation as His Spirit gives you wisdom and revelation into the hope you have in Him.

**Pray:** This week pray as a group that you would begin to experience God and gain spiritual insight into the hope that you have. Pray that you would begin to see God in a new way and be reminded of the hope that he promises each of us.

**Memorize:** “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him,—since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened—so that you can know what is the hope of his calling..” – Ephesians 1:17-18 NET