

Restoring Lost Hope and Caring for One Another

Ezekiel 37:11-14

Main idea: To emphasize the power of God's restoration and the role of community in restoring hope, addressing common obstacles and discussing the role of forgiveness, all while highlighting the example of Jesus.

Topic: Caring for One Another

Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on "Restoring Lost Hope" and "Caring for One Another":

1. Emphasize the power of God's restoration:

- Expand on Ezekiel 37:11-14, highlighting how God's promise to restore the dry bones symbolizes His ability to bring hope and life to seemingly hopeless situations.
- Consider incorporating other passages that speak of God's restoration, such as Psalm 23:3, Isaiah 61:3, and Joel 2:25-26.

2. Explore the role of community in restoring hope:

- Discuss the importance of caring for one another within the church community, drawing from passages like Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, and Hebrews 10:24-25.
- Highlight practical ways in which believers can support and encourage each other, such as through acts of kindness, prayer, and active listening.

3. Address common obstacles to restoring hope:

- Identify common challenges that can hinder the restoration of hope, such as doubt, fear, and isolation.
- Offer biblical solutions to these obstacles, referencing verses like Matthew 14:31, Isaiah 41:10, and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

4. Discuss the role of forgiveness in restoring hope:

- Explore the connection between forgiveness and hope, using passages like Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13, and Ephesians 4:32.
- Share practical steps for extending forgiveness and seeking reconciliation within relationships.

5. Highlight the example of Jesus:

- Draw from Jesus' ministry to exemplify the restoration of hope and caring for others.
- Reference passages like Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 9:36, and John 13:34-35 to emphasize Jesus' compassion and love for the brokenhearted.

Language suggestions and additional verses:

- In Ezekiel 37:11-14, the Hebrew word for "breath" is "ruach," which can also mean "spirit." You can explore the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in restoring hope.
- Consider incorporating Romans 15:13, which speaks of God as the source of hope, and 1 Peter 5:10, which highlights God's restoration after suffering.

Remember to weave these ideas and verses into your sermon in a way that reinforces your current points and provides a comprehensive message on restoring lost hope and caring for one another.