

SEAS Study Guide for Summer Book Club
Beautiful Hope
Part One: Choosing Hope (Week of June 4th)

Reading: *Reading: pp. 1-42*

Opening Prayer: *Loving Father, Open our hearts and minds and allow us to see the beauty of our faith. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self in every moment of our days. We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely, the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude. We ask all this through your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

1. What would your life look like without hope?
2. Do you live in expectation of seeing God?
3. What is the difference between hope and optimism?
4. Fr. Mike Schmitz said a “person of hope is a person of meaning and action”. What does he mean by that?
5. How does hope play a role in your decision making?
6. How has hope sustained you in suffering?
7. Have you ever been disappointed when you put hope in something or someone other than God?
8. Do you believe God is fulfilling his promises in your life?
9. What is something humanly impossible that you are expecting from God?
10. What dream inspires your hope for your future?
11. In what situation is God calling you to become a person of hope?

Closing Prayer: *Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.*

Part Two: Hope in the Church (Week of June 11th)

Reading: *Reading: pp. 45-67*

Opening Prayer: *Loving Father, Open our hearts and minds and allow us to see the beauty of our faith. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self in every moment of our days. We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely, the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude. We ask all this through your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

1. What is stopping you from hoping?
2. If you were to write your own eulogy, what would it say?
3. How does the Church give you hope?
4. When have you been surprised by hope?
5. How can your gifts and talents serve the Church in powerful ways?
6. Do you act like it all depends on God, or like it all depends on you?
7. How can your parish respond to God's call to help carry someone else's cross?
8. Who can you walk with and encourage in their time of need?
9. Who in your life could benefit from a letter of encouragement? Now what's stopping you from writing that letter?

Closing Prayer: *Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.*

Part Three: Hope in Action (Week of June 18th)

Reading: *Reading: pp. 70-93*

Opening Prayer: *Loving Father, Open our hearts and minds and allow us to see the beauty of our faith. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self in every moment of our days. We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely, the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude. We ask all this through your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

1. Describe when you have experienced a miracle in your life.
2. What miracle do you need God to do in your life? (Take time to write this down.)
3. How has generosity made you a person of hope?
4. What's standing between you and an intimate, hope-filled relationship with God?
5. What do these words of Jesus mean to you: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33)
6. What is God giving you the chance to say YES to today?
7. How often do you think about heaven? Do you look at your life through the lens of the eternal?
8. When is a time in your life when all you could do was hope?
9. What are some of the ways God has answered prayers in your life?

Closing Prayer: *Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.*

Part Four: Becoming Hope (Week of June 25th)

Reading: *Reading: pp. 96-115*

Opening Prayer: *Loving Father, Open our hearts and minds and allow us to see the beauty of our faith. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self in every moment of our days. We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely, the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude. We ask all this through your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

1. Are you showing up to prayer?
2. Do people who meet you leave more hopeful or less?
3. How can you become an “instrument of *giallo*” in your life?
4. If you wrote your own ABC’s of hope, what would you write down?
5. What does it mean to you to be “the hands of God in the world”?
6. Name the people in your life that bring you hope. Reach out to one of those people this week, and thank them for being a source of hope for you.
7. How can you give hope this week?
8. What is the ONE thing you are going to take away from this book club about “HOPE”?

Closing Prayer: *Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen.*