**“Better Than We Had Hoped – Pt 4”**

**April-20/21, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]Read **1 Peter 5b-10.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passage, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. Tom shared, *“Jesus wants you to count more on His love for you than even your love for Him. From Jesus’ interaction with Peter, Jesus is making it clear: ‘I know all about your past – and let’s deal with that – but also, I care more about your future than your past.’”*
   1. How does knowing that Jesus knows about your past, but cares more about your future impact your faith and the mission He has for you?
2. Tom said, *“Peter had misplaced confidence – thought too much of himself – and so he prayed too little, but the same can happen in our lives flowing from our* ***pride****. If I am arrogant enough to believe my hype, why pray?”* 
   1. What do you think your prayer life reveals about who you have more confidence in; yourself or God? Is there any area of your life where you sense God’s invitation to pray more consistently?
3. Tom taught, *“****Comparison*** *is often rooted in pride. We compare ourselves to someone – at work, at school, at church, in our family – if we are doing better than them, we feel proud. But the same heart of pride that is puffed up by success is crushed by failure.”*
   1. In what area of your life (work, school, church, family, etc.) do you find that you most compare yourself to others? What do you think this reveals about your belief about yourself or God?
   2. How might you grow in freedom from the temptation of comparison?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray.
* Pray for fruitfulness in people’s lives through the sermon series, “Better Than We Had Hoped.”
* Pray for those who made first-time commitments or recommitments to Jesus at CA’s Easter services.