

# Devotional Guide

## February 9-14, 2026



# Open Doors for Hope

***Silence locks hope in darkness; gentle conversations open doors to life in Jesus.***

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

*This message from the Living Hope series draws on Colossians 4:2-6 to show how hope spreads through intentional relationships. It calls Jesus followers to mirror the Father's love by loving enemies first, pray devotedly for divine openings, redefine neighbors as those in need via the Good Samaritan, and share graciously without condemnation, as Jesus did.*

*Practical steps encourage identifying people, praying daily, extending care, and preparing gentle conversations. The guide helps you to avoid judgmental silence and shine hope relationally, transforming everyday encounters.*

### **How to Use This Guide:**

Commit to 10-15 minutes each day to read, reflect, pray, and act.



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## Day 1: Embracing Father-Like Love Bible

**Reading:** Matthew 5:43-45

### Devotional Thought:

God's love doesn't wait for reciprocation—it moves first, as seen in sending sun and rain on all. The sermon highlights this as our model: loving those who don't love us back, like enemies or the indifferent. Recall the Seinfeld hook—awkward faith talks often turn judgmental, but Jesus calls us to be inviting greeters to heaven's gates.

By seizing small opportunities, such as a hello or shared interest, we crack open doors to hope. This isn't about being "that person" but about building relationships where hope travels best.

In real life, think of a coworker or neighbor who's distant—your simple act could reflect the Father's kindness, breaking silence that locks hope away. As the sermon notes, hope shines through intentional steps, turning tension into transformation.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What does Matthew 5:43-45 reveal about God's character?
2. Where have you seen unreturned love in your life?
3. How does this connect to avoiding judgmental silence?
4. What small opportunity might God be placing before you?
5. How can loving first change a relationship?

### Prayer:

Lord, help me love like You—first and freely. Show me someone to pray for today. Guide my steps to reflect Your kindness. Amen.

### Action Step:

Greet one "distant" person by name today and note a shared interest.

## Day 6: Trusting God with the Results

**Bible Reading:** John 4:39-42, Related: Proverbs 3:5-6.

### Devotional Thought:

The woman's gentle invitation drew many to Jesus—results from one gracious encounter. The sermon closes envisioning our convos illuminating darkness, urging trust in God after praying, caring, sharing.

Review the week: from love's first move to action steps, it's about partnership, not control. Celebrate progress; if silence persists, reflect without condemnation.

This builds outward—share insights with others. Hope isn't locked when we act; God multiplies. End with momentum: continue these habits, previewing more hope in life.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What happened in John 4:39-42 after the woman's words?
2. How has this guide deepened your understanding?
3. What one insight will you carry forward?
4. Where can you apply this in community?
5. How does trusting God free you?

### Prayer Prompt:

Thank You, God, for this week's truths. Help me shine hope ongoing. Bless those I pray for. Amen.

### Action Step:

Share one takeaway with a friend; commit to ongoing prayer for open doors.

## Day 5: Practical Steps to Shine Hope

**Bible Reading:** Colossians 4:2-6

### Devotional Thought:

The sermon culminates in action: identify 3-5 needing hope, pray daily, extend care, prepare starters. This integrates all points—love, prayer, neighborly care, gracious words—into daily life.

Envision a gentle conversation changing someone's eternity; trust God with results. In real scenarios, like family or friends, these steps break silence's lock.

Reflect on the series: prior messages echoed similar calls, challenging fears or apathy. Why silence? Fear or unbelief? Take it to Jesus. This day shifts to hands-on application, celebrating how intentional relationships carry hope best.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Review Colossians 4:2-6—what's the overall call?
2. Which action step resonates most personally?
3. How have fears locked your hope?
4. Where do you see God already at work?
5. How will these steps shape your week?

### Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, put one person on my heart; guide my prayers, care, and words. Help me trust You. Amen.

### Action Step:

Choose one person; pray, reach out with care, and note any openings.

## Day 2: Devoted Prayer for Open Doors Bible

**Reading:** Colossians 4:2-4

### Devotional Thought:

Prayer isn't passive—it's our active role in God's work, as Paul urges watchfulness and thankfulness while chained. The sermon outlines specific prayers: for God to draw the lost, remove blindness, convict of sin, and open doors. This partners with Him to prepare hearts, turning natural moments into hope's entry.

Imagine praying for a family member in spiritual darkness—the sermon reminds us silence locks hope, but prayer removes barriers. In everyday life, like at school or work, watchful prayer spots openings. As shared in the message, it's about responding when God creates them, not forcing.

This builds on Day 1's love by fueling it with divine power, making relationships intentional vessels for hope.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What key elements stand out in Colossians 4:2-4?
2. How has prayer opened a door in your past?
3. Why include thankfulness in prayer?
4. Who in your life needs these specific prayers?
5. How does this shift prayer from routine to partnership?

### Prayer:

Father, draw [name] to You, remove blindness, convict of sin, and open doors. Make me watchful and thankful. Amen.

### Action Step:

Pray daily for one person using the sermon's four asks; journal any insights.

## Day 3: Redefining Our “Neighbor”

**Bible Reading:** Luke 10:30-37

### Devotional Thought:

Jesus flips the "Who is my neighbor?" question by showing it's anyone in need God places in our path. The sermon uses the Good Samaritan to illustrate meeting needs without agenda—deep listening, treating as image bearers. Religious insiders ignored the hurt man, but the despised Samaritan went out of his way. This redefines relationships: not prospects, but people to love generously.

In modern terms, think of helping a struggling friend on social media or a neighbor in crisis—your care asks, "Why so kind?" opening hope's door. Building on prior days, this combines love and prayer with action, avoiding silence that darkens lives. The message stresses no condemnation, just kindness that shines Jesus.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What details in the parable highlight the Samaritan's actions?
2. How has someone met your need unexpectedly?
3. Why redefine neighbor beyond the familiar?
4. Where do you see cultural challenges to this?
5. How can agenda-free care build trust?

### Prayer:

God, place someone in need on my path; give me eyes to see and hands to help without strings. Amen.

### Action Step:

Identify a need in someone's life and offer practical help, like listening or assisting.

## Day 4: Grace-Seasoned Conversations

**Bible Reading:** Colossians 4:5-6

### Devotional Thought:

Wise actions and gracious words seize moments, as Paul instructs. The sermon contrasts judgmental "truth bombs" with gentle sharing, like acknowledging faith's value or honest struggles.

Jesus' well-side talk with the Samaritan woman crossed barriers, offered living water without shaming, leading her to invite villagers. This models patience—God works ahead.

In your world, a coffee chat or conversation with a neighbor could use a starter like "Something giving me hope is..." Building on care from Day 3, grace seasons words to attract, not repel. Silence locks hope, but these conversations open life in Jesus, turning relationships into hope's pathway.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What does "seasoned with salt" mean in Colossians 4:5-6?
2. Describe Jesus' approach in John 4.
3. When has a gentle word impacted you?
4. How can honesty about struggles invite deeper talks?
5. What fears hold back your sharing?

### Prayer Prompt:

Lord, make my words full of grace; teach me to answer wisely. Prepare hearts for gentle conversations. Amen.

### Action Step

Prepare and practice one faith conversation starter; use it if a natural moment arises.