



Discussion Guide
Race Against the Horses – Part 6
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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“Hope is a defiant reliance on God keeping His word.”

[Ann Voskamp]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

If you could create a “Hope Hotline” where one Bible character answers calls to encourage people, who would you choose and why?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“I am certain that I will see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord ; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord.”*

[Psalm 27:13-14]

BIG IDEA

Don’t let your heart be ruled by what you see; let it be ruled by what Jesus promises you. Rather than live in disgust, despair, and discouragement, act in hope!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Have a few people read aloud portions of Jeremiah 32:1-27.

1. In the sermon we heard, *“Biblical hope does not depend upon my understanding, power, or control.”* How have you failed to grasp biblical hope in the past and depended on your own understanding, power, or control?
2. In v. 6-15, what does God command Jeremiah to do? Why do you think this action is significant?
3. What does Jeremiah’s struggle with doubt after obeying God reveal about faith and obedience?
4. In v. 27, God responds to Jeremiah’s prayer. How does God’s rhetorical question, “Is anything too hard for me?” challenge our human tendency to doubt Him?
5. How does Jeremiah’s act of buying land demonstrate an active, defiant hope?
6. At times, what is easier about living in discouragement, cynicism, or fear rather than living with hope? What dangers does this pose for us?
7. Jeremiah’s faithfulness didn’t yield immediate results. How does this challenge your desire for instant success and gratification in your faith?
8. Jeremiah’s purchase was a declaration that God wasn’t finished with His people. What area of your life do you need to trust that God isn’t finished? What’s God saying to you right now?

9. Jeremiah obeyed God despite uncertainty. What is one area of your life where you feel God calling you to obey without fully understanding the outcome?
10. How can we encourage one another to live in hope rather than fear or cynicism?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Jeremiah's act wasn't just about a piece of land—it was about declaring God's future reality even when the present seemed hopeless. How can we live today with that same bold, defiant hope? We can start by remembering what Jeremiah 32:17 says: *"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."*

Here are a few additional questions to consider in buying your field this week:

- How can you LIVE NOW for *future grace*?
 - Examples → return good for evil; flee from sexual immorality; level up your generosity
- How can you INVEST IN someone's *kingdom future*?
 - Examples → share your story; invite to church; use spiritual gift to build up the body
- How can you DO SOMETHING that's *inexplicably bold*?
 - Examples → go on a missions trip; serve beyond convenience; leave comfort zone
- How can you KEEP your *eyes on Christ*?
 - Examples → rise early to be with God; pause and pray throughout the day

PRAYER FOCUS

Living by Jesus' Promises

- In a world filled with brokenness, it's easy for our hearts to be ruled by what we see—disgust, despair, and discouragement. However, Jesus calls us to something greater: to live by His promises.. He assures us of His presence, His victory, and His unshakable hope.
- As we pray, let's ask God to anchor our hearts in His truth rather than in the circumstances around us. Let's surrender our fears and frustrations, choosing instead to act in hope, trust in His promises, and shine His light in a dark world.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ch. 32 Commentary](#) & [The Man Who Bought Property In a War Zone](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Hope Means Resting](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.