I Will Build My Church PART 9: THE CHURCH'S HOPE Acts 28

God is in control, and therefore in EVERYTHING I can give thanks - not because of the situation but because of the One who directs and rules over it.

-Kay Arthur

I. Hope in Spite of Obstacles

II. Hope in Spite of Opposition

Small Group Study Questions

Into the Bible:

1. There are a number of circumstances that can make us feel hopeless. Sometimes our hopelessness is driven by outside circumstances, and sometimes it comes from our own shortcomings. Read Psalm 102 and Psalm 51. How do those Psalms bring us to hope, whether we are beaten down by circumstances or our own failure?

2. We know that our circumstances will constantly change, but that God remains in control. What does hope "look" like in the midst of uncertainty? In other words, how does hope impact our behavior? What tangible things will hope produce in our lives?

3.	Over the course of the book of Acts, we have seen God work in difficult circumstances during the life and ministry of Paul. We don't face the same obstacles or opposition, but we do face difficulties. Is there a time in your life when God brought you hope in a hopeless time? Hearing other people talk about God's faithfulness is one of the ways that God encourages our own faith.

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 gives us some consistent ways that we are called to respond to God. One of those is with constant thanksgiving. Share with the group some of those things that you are thankful for!

For Families:

4. It can be hard to develop a sense of thanksgiving when things are hard. Talk with your kids about how they can be thankful, even when life is uncertain or painful.