

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

Study Guide

Reflect and Respond

Blake Lindsey
December 28, 2025

Major Points

- 1 Remember what God has done — He reconciled us to Himself through Christ**
2 Corinthians 5:18-19
- 2 Release what God has forgiven — stop carrying the weight of sins God no longer counts against you**
Psalms 103:12
- 3 Respond to God's mission — we are ambassadors sent to represent Christ in the world**
2 Corinthians 5:20
- 4 The progression of spiritual baggage: disappointment leads to discouragement leads to disengagement**
Romans 12:2

Key Quotes

“Remembering God's faithfulness in our past helps us receive God's promises in our future.”
at 13:06

“Every number is a person. Every person has a story and every story matters to God.”
at 8:50

“God wants us to live our life from a place of victory. Not from a place of feeling like a fight for victory all the time, but from a place of confident victory because he doesn't count our sins against us.”
at 27:51

“There's a reason why the rearview mirror in our car is so small. And the windshield is so big. Because it's good to look back. But if you try to drive in your rear view mirror, you are going to wreck really, really fast.”
at 23:17

“God didn't just save us from something. I'm grateful that he did. He saved us for something. And that is to make a difference.”
at 33:34

“I know I might not be where I want to be, but I thank God I'm not where I was, that He's brought me to where we are now.”
at 26:54

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Lindsey described how disappointment can lead to discouragement and then to disengagement. Which of these three stages do you most identify with right now, and what specific circumstances have contributed to that?
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2. Pastor Lindsey used the carry-on luggage analogy to illustrate packing only the essentials into the new year. What is one piece of 'checked baggage' you know you need to leave behind, and what makes it hard to let go of?
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3. Pastor Lindsey said that God wants us to live from a place of victory rather than constantly fighting for victory. How does that distinction change the way you approach recurring sin or struggle in your life?
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4. Pastor Lindsey emphasized that we are Christ's ambassadors who deliver the message of the One who sent us. In what specific area of your daily life — work, neighborhood, family — do you feel most called to represent Christ this year?
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5. Pastor Lindsey shared the stories of Michael and Ezra as examples of transformed lives. How has hearing or sharing personal stories of faith strengthened your own walk with God, and who in your life might need to hear your story?
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Word Studies

καταλλάσσω

katallasso

Greek

To reconcile, to restore to favor, to change from enmity to friendship. In the New Testament it describes God's initiative to restore the broken relationship between Himself and humanity through the work of Christ.

Usage: 6 times

πρεσβεύω

presbeuo

Greek

To be an ambassador, to serve as an envoy or representative. Derived from 'presbus' (elder), it conveys the idea of one sent with full authority to represent and speak on behalf of another.

Usage: 2 times

καινός

kainos

Greek

New in quality or nature, as opposed to 'neos' which means new in time. Kainos emphasizes a freshness and superior quality — not merely recent, but fundamentally different and unprecedented.

Usage: 44 times

Cross References

Isaiah 43:18-19

God declares He is doing a new thing and tells His people not to dwell on the past, directly paralleling Pastor Lindsey's call to leave old baggage behind and live forward into what God is doing.

Philippians 3:13-14

Paul describes forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, echoing the rearview mirror analogy and the sermon's emphasis on pressing into God's future rather than being stuck in the past.

Colossians 3:13

The command to forgive as the Lord forgave you supports the second point about releasing what God has forgiven and extending that same forgiveness to ourselves.

1 Peter 2:9

Believers are called a chosen people and royal priesthood to declare God's praises, reinforcing the ambassador identity and mission-focused life that Pastor Lindsey outlined in his third point.

Lamentations 3:22-23

God's mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great, undergirding the sermon's theme of remembering God's faithfulness as the foundation for stepping into a new season.

Further Reading

- **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry**
by John Mark Comer
- **Forgiving What You Can't Forget**
by Lysa TerKeurst
- **The Purpose Driven Life**
by Rick Warren

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	Read Aloud	14:40	Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creatio...
Matthew 6:33	Read Aloud	0:30	But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, ...
Hebrews 10:23	Read Aloud	10:20	Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, f...
Psalms 77:11	Read Aloud	10:40	I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will...
Ephesians 2:13	Read Aloud	20:50	But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away...
Psalms 103:12	Read Aloud	26:10	As far as the east is from the west, so far has he...
Romans 12:2	Read Aloud	26:40	Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but b...
Ephesians 2:10	Read Aloud	32:20	For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesu...