

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

And They Thought You Were Dead | Pastor Shaun Nepstad  
Summer at Hope City | Week 1

## Scripture

---

*19 They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city...22 "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,"*  
**Acts 14:1-22**

## Main Idea

---

*The very people that one day celebrate you, can the next day want to stone you. We care too much about what other people think about us. There are people in your life that haven't liked you, misunderstood you, mistreated you, and even tried to poison the minds of others about you. They thought they had power over you and had finished you. And they thought you were dead. But they haven't seen anything yet. (see Psalm 23:5)*

### 1. TAKE TIME TO RECOVER

How are you taking time to recover physically, relationally, emotionally, spiritually?

### 2. TAKE TIME TO FORGIVE

Who are the people that you need to forgive and bring their balance to zero?

### 3. GET BACK UP

*Additional Scripture: Proverbs 24:16; 2 Corinthians 4:5, 8-9, 14, 16-18*

What and Who will be affected if you don't get back up?

What is required for you to get back up? Which is the most difficult and why?

- Value God over the pain
- Value people over the pain
- Value the mission/vision over the pain

## Summary

---

*We can sometimes turn up the volume of other people's voices in our lives over God's Word. It's time to mute those voices and get back into God's Word. We need to take time to recover and forgive. We may trip seven times, but we need to get back up again. They may have thought you were dead. You may have thought it over in areas of your life as well, but what we call dead, Jesus calls asleep. Get up and live again.*

## Call To Action

---

1. You don't hear many sermons today that tell us we must go through some hard times, that this is part of it. This is why you need a Connect Group. Make a commitment to attend a Connect Group for the next six weeks.
2. Make a list and remind yourself of all the things that God has spoken over you?
3. Picture the faces of the people who told you that you were dead. And now imagine their look of surprise as you get back up.

# Group Leader Resource

---

## ***Opening Ice Breaker: Wink***

Needed: One Deck of Cards, 6 or more players

Play involves conversation among participants while one of the players (the “winker”) tries to make eye contact with other players to wink at them and eliminate them from the round.

### **How to Play the Wink Game**

1. Have all the players sit around a table or on the floor in a circle.
2. Remove enough cards from the deck for every player to get only one. All of the cards must be black except for one red card. Shuffle the small pile of cards.
3. Each player draws one card from the small shuffled pile and looks at it, then places it face down on the table or floor without showing it to anyone else. The person with the red card is the “winker.”
4. While everyone talks (about anything under the sun), the “winker” tries to make eye contact with other players and wink at them, trying not to be noticed by anyone.
5. The player winked at must call out, “I’m dead,” and dramatically play dead. To add more drama, the player winked at should count silently to three to avoid the attention of other players, and then die.
6. After each “death,” players keep talking while the winker seeks his next victim.
7. Play continues until the last player is “killed” or someone catches the “winker” in the act. If a player thinks he knows who the “winker” is, he points at them and shouts, “winker” or “murderer!”
8. If the accuser is right, the winker turns over his card and the round ends. If the accuser is wrong, the accuser turns over his card and “dies.”

Play continues until everyone is dead or the winker is correctly identified. This ends the round. When each round ends, shuffle the cards and start over with each player drawing one card again, etc.