

## **SENSING HOPE**

February 17, 2021 - March 17, 2021

Lutheran World Relief Series

March 3, 2021  
Seeing Hope  
Session 3

■ Touching Hope:	February 17, 2021	Preached February 21, 2021
■ Hearing Hope:	February 24, 2021	Preached February 28, 2021
■ Seeing Hope:	March 3, 2021	Preached March 7, 2021
■ Smelling Hope:	March 10, 2021	Preached March 14, 2021
■ Tasting Hope:	March 17, 2021	Preached March 21, 2021

### SEEING HOPE:

Restoring hope after Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America

Mark 10:46-52 | Bartimaeus Sees

Where hope is shared following natural disasters

[https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/central\\_america\\_map2.htm](https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/central_america_map2.htm)

>> Map showing countries in Central America for reference to location of Honduras.

Our neighbors in Central America had already been affected by rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases and put in lockdown, on top of the challenges of a weakening economy. All of that was before two devastating hurricanes made landfall within just two weeks of each other this past November: Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Our neighbors in Central America saw 145 mph maximum sustained winds along with three feet of rainfall. As a result, rivers and streams flooded over, electricity was out, landslides blocked access to already isolated villages, bridges collapsed, roads were shut down and both small towns and large cities faced threats of massive flash floods. Homes were destroyed and livelihoods, too.

When you listen to the stories of our neighbors, you see people like Maritsa Morales. "I was told to evacuate, but I have five kids and a mother-in-law in a wheelchair," she said. "How am I supposed to evacuate?" She

eventually made her way to Centre Basico Fidelina Cerros where she shelters, caring for her children and helping her mother-in-law while her husband works as a day laborer.

You also see Ernesto Lemus, who woke up to the sound of water rushing through his home at 4 a.m. "We knew the storm was coming, but it got here earlier than we expected."

He saw 12 inches of mud and raw sewage coursing through his home.

VISIO DIVINA Praying with our eyes



Look at the photo of the tractor transporting evacuees through rushing water in Jerusalem, Honduras.

**Take a few minutes to notice what you see** - the colors, the scenery, the faces. Where do you see hope in the picture? After a few minutes of silence and prayerful looking, offer a prayer.

### DISCUSS

1. Talk about the power of water. What memories and stories do you have related to water (drinking, cleaning, visiting a lake or the ocean, etc.)
2. What signs of hope do you see in the photo above?
3. Who in your community is not being seen?

4. In what ways can your congregation open their eyes, homes and hearts to neighbors and strangers this Lent?

### BIBLE STUDY Mark 10:46-52

What does hope look like? Does it look like clean water, flourishing fields, a rainbow, strangers listening to one another? Do you see hope in our world or do you only see obstacles to overcome? Do you look towards Jesus to be our hope? In today's lesson, we witness Bartimaeus seeing hope in Jesus. But first, imagine Bartimaeus by the side of the road, begging. Can you imagine the life he led that brought him to beg for food and water? Bartimaeus keeps shouting for Jesus to take notice. He's told to be quiet, but he persists even more. He lifts his voice. He wants to be seen. Jesus comes to him, asks what he wants and restores his sight.

### Read Mark 10:46-52.

1. What signs of hope do you see in the Bible reading?
2. Who do you see in your own life that brings you hope?
3. How does your wider community see your congregation?
4. What would they tell others about your work and ministry?
5. Who in your community is not being seen?

### PRAY

God who sees our hearts and the fullness of our lives, we give thanks to you. Teach us to see the beauty of creation and the diversity of your people. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors. Keep us turning to you, our hope and salvation. Keep us steadfast in seeking you. You call us beloved; may we see all as your children and worthy of love and hope. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

LWR - Lutheran World Relief

At Lutheran World Relief, we envision a future where all people, in every corner of the world can live full, dignified lives.

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize. We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.