

Hale Pule: Uplift

January 18 -19, 2025

Welcome back to our series Hale Pule. Thanks PMark for introducing me and reminding us what our vision for 2025 is, to make our homes, small group settings, our circles of work and play into Hale Pules, places where we bring in the presence of Jesus through our connection with God in prayer. In this series we are using “Pule” as an acronym to help us with this vision of making every home a Hale Pule.

Last wk, you heard from PMark and he spoke about P, prayer, And tonight/today, I’ll focus on the U, and it’s the value of Uplift, another related word for Uplift is Encourage, or to Build Up, or add value to. And that’s one quality of making every house a Hale Pule, creating space where we can do that with each other in Prayer, uplifting God and each other in prayer.

Just one fact, do you know that term Hale Pule is the very Hawaiian word for “Church”. You get Hale Pili, House of Grass, or Grass huts, Haleakala (house of the rising sun), you get Hale’iwa (house/home of the Iwa Bird), And I’ll speak about that aspect of making our homes Hale Hapai (“to carry”, “to lift”, “to elevate”, “to raise”, “to hoist”, “to holdup”, or “to support” each odda). It’s our mo betta togedda value of NHCO.

And one of our missions of our weekend services, our big gathering experience, is to do Hale Hapai where can not only elevate each other, but we elevate God and that when you leave here, you built up on the inside so you can build up others on the outside, in your homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, families and schools.

Why is value of Uplift so important? Well, the world we live is filled with some downer news. You open up the newspaper, turn on the TV news, it’s all downer

news/bad news. Wildfires in Cali, Wars still happening (well cease fire agreement in place for Israel/Hamas, Aftermath of the fireworks fiasco of new years, and downer news in our own lives, potential landfill in our backyard (I get it, Oahu needs a new location, but who wants a landfill near them) cost of living going up, and having to deal with an egg shortage, and for some of us here, on a personal level, we get some downer news going on? How many of you need some “Uplifting” today? He’s the one that can carry us through it all. He’s got us!

And creating spaces for being uplifted is something I passion in my life. And the story that best illustrates being uplifted to Jesus and being brought to/carried to his very presence is best seen in a story many of you heard time and time again in our church. And I going remind us again. But maybe some of you heardn’t before.

We go watch um in **HP video: (2:35 minutes)**

I asked God to give me more insights into this story. That Hale was a place of healing, Hale Ho`ola, a healing house. And the four men knew that they needed to go through some extraordinary efforts to uplift, physically uplift, that paralyzed man into the very presence of Jesus. They crashed the roof for the man. How many of us need some roof crashing mat friends in our lives to uplift us when we are down.

This uplifting quality of what we are trying to enculturate/bring into our Hales is this: You encounter Jesus, connect with him, get into his presence, just like those four mat friends did for their friend, and then you are build up. Maybe Jesus speaks life into you. I believe in you. I love you. You are precious to me. You are special. And you leave feeling more valued, more encouraged, way more special than you came.

Being uplifted can happen in many ways. But I'll touch on one part of how we can uplift like Jesus does and it's through our very words we speak over each other. Cuz we could uplift in actions too.

We see this happening where God our Father speaks value, importance, and love over God His beloved Son, Jesus at his baptism. Do you remember what God the father says over Jesus when Jesus was being baptized? (**Keynote**) in Mark 1:11

NLT says it this way: This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

NIV says it like this: This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

DGASB tell: Dis my boy. I get love an aloha fo him fo real kine, an I stay good inside cuz a him!"

I have a question for you all. What great miracles, great teachings, what did Jesus do for God his father to say these things? NOTHING YET! I want you to catch that. It was because of the relationship God the father had with his spesho boy that he said that.

And that's what we wanna do in our Hale Pules or our Hale Hapais. Adding value to each other. Not in a flattery or insincere way, but to add value to someone. Do you remember the last time someone spoke life over you, added value to you?

And it starts with us individually, how has your times with God been going fasting and praying? I hope that has been such an uplifting time for you. I'm fasting from recreational youtube and from my daily crossword puzzle I do in the newspaper. (That can take up to 30 minutes). I enjoy doing that, but instead using that to connect more with God in prayer.

Just a little about myself. I grew up in a loving home, but one thing that lacked was verbal uplifting in the form of praise, especially from my dad. He didn't grow up with a very present dad, so I don't blame him for not knowing about the power of verbally uplifting me, words of affirmation/praise.

I remember like it was yesterday that the one time my dad told me he was proud of me was after I thought I failed. I cuz guess I so wanted my dad's verbal approval, I sought it in athletics, specifically on the baseball field. It was through winning in baseball and achieving that I'd gain his approval. The moment was when we just lost the state championship game and I was hanging my head walking out of Aloha Stadium thinking we were so close and I could have been a game changer. And then my dad comes to me and shakes my hand and tells me I'm proud of you son. But dad we lost. Dass ok boy, I'm proud of you. You know what that did to me. I felt like I won the World Series most valuable player at that moment, hearing those words from my dad.

So as you can tell my love language is Words of Affirmation. So when you tell me how great I am, as a pastor, or fisherman, husband. That so BUILDS ME UP.

One truth that I try to live by and ask God's spirit to help me with is to uplift everyone around me with my words cuz the old Earl would cut people down cuz I wanted to be better than you. Dass the old Earl. Now I'm Earl the Pearl.

Paul says this to the Ephesian church and it's only the Good an Spesho spirit that can help me be truly transformed. **(KEYNOTE)**

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Ephesians 4:29 NIV).

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone (Colossians 4:6 NIV).

Let's ask God to help us be people who speak words that build up, not tear down. Uplifters, not some who tears people down.

The writer of Hebrews says this (**Keynote**)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24 – 25 NIV).

Here it is again, encouraging one another. Uplifting one another. We all need this in our hales. Intentionally, that we'd ask God about who we can UPLIFT around us. I'd say, when someone encourages you, builds you up, adds value to you through words of affirmation, you are BUILT UP, UPLIFTED. Let's be that kind of people who when they leave your presence, they feel more valued, more special than before they met you.

Last week, Pastor Mark shared about being in the wilderness. What is that? Maybe you are in a difficult or challenging season of life now, where you are facing some trials, hard times, not sure about your present or future. It could be work, health, relational, or you feel sense of isolation, being alone, and feeling like you need to draw closer in your relationship with God cuz of what you are going through.

Some of you feel that way? Well, being in that wilderness is not a bad thing as we all have our wilderness moments in life. But one thing I know is that we'll need refreshment in those wilderness moments. I wanna share about my experience in the real wilderness on my Israel trip in 2007. Now we are readying in our devos about David being in the Wilderness of the Negev and him singing about it in

Psalms, on Monday, where he was running away from being pursued by Saul and found safe haven there. The wilderness can be dry, barren, and silent.

And that's where some of us are, dry, barren, and where we need to hear from God beyond the distractions and battles that we face.

Show pics of the wilderness and signs of where the oasis is and the refreshing waterfall that's there with other sojourners/travelers.

And God creates oases in the wilderness for us. Places of refreshment along our journey. We may not live in a desert wilderness today, especially for us in Hawaii, but you may be feeling like you are in one. Well, God shows up by placing an Oasis on your journey. The question is are you willing to go there.

Some of you wait till you dehydrated before you go there. Jalike running a marathon. You gotta hydrate even if you are not thirsty? Why because it'll be too late to hydrate when you are depleted. Some of you see the opportunities to get to the Oasis that God shows you, but like I shared at Christmas, we hard head and tell, "Ah no need go there yet, I get um". I'd say, "surround yourself with Mat Friends/Fellow Roof Crashers, on your journey.

I want you to hear a testimony of a couple who have found an Oasis. Hear their story of how God showed up on their journey to bring them to wholeness in who they are today.

TESTIMONY of Albert and Ipo Sarpomones (show **video of baptism and their OG**)

Show another Oasis Group, fellow soujourners (Rosario OG), and tell people to go to the CC Lobby and check out the QR code check out all the Oases, Ogs in our church. There are other groups that meet, on Tuesday worship, Mondays Hope,

The Youth, Sundays Awe of God (not too late to join), and shortly you'll hear about our TAs, all UPLIFTING Oases on your journey.

End with story of Moses in the battle. Exodus 17:8 – 13 (Worship Team come back on stage) (**Keynote**)

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword (Exodus 17:8 – 13 NIV).

We going need people who come alongside us in battle to uplift us in prayer. That's one huge quality of our Hale Pules, or Hale Hapais, where we uplift each other's arms in our battles we face in life.

So let's stand and Braiden will lead us into battle with our Hale Pule (uplift hands in singing). Battle Belongs

Ohana/Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What spoke to you in the message? (Open ended question)
2. On a scale of 1 – 10, 1 being "Very Bad" and 10 being "Totally Great", how are you generally feeling about your life now? What areas do you need to be uplifted in?
3. Reflect upon how you are as an Uplifter, Encourager, Value adder person to others?
 - a. Share concrete examples of someone Uplifting you up.
 - b. Share how you could grow in this area to create better Hale Pules, Hale Hapais.
 - c. Practice uplifting each other in the process.
4. What spoke to you most about Albert and Ipo's transformation?
5. Uplift one another and speak life over each other in prayer.