

SMALL GROUP GROWTH GUIDE

April 17, 2022 RESURRECTION SUNDAY

BIG IDEA: Hope is a Christian character that needs to be practiced on this side of eternity.

BELONG

What have you hoped for in life? What is the difference between being hopeful and wishful thinking?

GROW

Biblical Hope Defined

The surety or confidence in God's future faithfulness to fulfill His promises in Jesus Christ to those who believe in Him.

Take the time to read Hebrews chapter 11. Paul's concluding statement about love, the more excellent way, from 1 Corinthians 13 states that, "and now abide faith, hope and love, these three but the greatest of these is love. Faith and certainly hope gets overlooked in our walk with Christ. We understand, "God is love", 1 John 4:8, and therefore love is what will last through all eternity. Discuss and consider what the purposes of faith and hope are doing to our lives? Why are they needed? What support in any do they give you? How?

Six Fundamentals of Hope

1. God is the source of Hope.

When we talk of a source we're talking about belief foundations, ultimate's or standards. Read Job 31:24, Matthew 12:21, 1 Peter 1:21. What happens when God is not the source of hope? Aside from you, who else is affected? How? What are other idols that you have put your hope in? (An idol is taking a good thing and making it a God thing in your life.) When does having confidence in a good thing go to far so that you trust or hope in that more than God?

2. Hope is a Gift

See Acts 17:1-10. What was happening when Paul began the church in Thessalonica? How does hope apply to life under persecution or hardship?

3. Hope is Rational.

See 1 Peter 3:15. What should those around you see in you? What is the hope that is in you? How do you explain it? If it's not Jesus Christ, what are other hope options people use in life? How confident do you think they truly are? Explain.

4. Hope Sees Eternity

2 Corinthians 5:1-10. How does hope see eternity? How does this help you with this life and what you deal with?

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Cont.

5. Hope is Confirmed in trials.

As a Christian you have to assume that you will be attacked. See 1 Peter 5:8. What forms have those come to you in your life? What are those attacks meant to accomplish? How does hope overcome doubt?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9. What is the promise and does knowing what biblical hope is comfort you? How?

6. Hope is Personal

Read Mark 16:7. What does Jesus desire to do with Peter? Why? Read John 14:9. What does this hope say about the character and nature of God? Have you, or how often have you thought that God was mad at you? Why? Knowing God's true character, what does the hope of Christ do to you and for you?

REACH

John 11:25-26. Jesus' claim is that he is the Son of God, that he fulfilled the law of God by having to die to do so. The fact that he rose from the dead means his death was the perfect sacrifice. What new perspective does hoping in what Christ has done in the past for you, to allow for a future with him do for you now?