

Be Hopeful - No Matter What

May 2, 2021

"Are You a Source of Hope?"

I Peter 3:13-16

Hopeless or Hopeful - I Peter 3:13,14

Peter - He was fearful - Mark 14:66-72

He became fearless - Acts 1:8; 5:27-30

Steps to become a Source of Hope

"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence," I Peter 3:15

1. Submit to Jesus as Lord, don't just believe in Jesus.
2. Always be ready to talk about Jesus.
3. Be clear to yourself and others about why your hope is in Jesus.
 - Your personal subjective reasons
 - Your personal objective reasons

4. Choose to treat people like Jesus treats people

5. Handle hardship and suffering like Jesus

"and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame." I Peter 3:16

So what... Be hopeful and give others hope

What was your take-away from Sunday?

(A particular point, challenge, encouragement or question)

Getting Connected (An opening question to start your group)

If a friend who is not a Christian asked you all of a sudden, "Why are you a Christian?" what would be your first emotional reaction?

- Nervous Panic Ready Shocked Brain-freeze
Thankful Excited Fearful Clueless

Going Further - Growing in Christ

1. Start working on this month's memory verse.
"The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"
1 Peter 4:7

This week pray for Ron and Debbie Fuqua as they share Christ and help plant churches in Romania.

Be prepared to share something from your own personal reading of God's Word or P.T. with God.
2. What changed in Peter's life from being fearful to fearless?
Mark 14:66-72
Acts 1:8; 5:27-30
1 Peter 1:3

3. What do we learn from Jesus about people "believing in His name", but not really "believing" from *John 3:23-25*?

How is it that demons "believe" what is true about God, but it does not change them? *James 2:18-20*

Why is making Jesus Lord so critical and important? *Romans 10:9,10*
Matthew 6:33, 7:21-23

What does it mean to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"?

4. What would be the personal subjective reasons you became a Christian? (Why did you surrender your life to Christ?)
5. What are your personal objective reasons you are still a Christian? (Why are you convinced it is true and not just wishful thinking?)
6. When we talk to others about Jesus, why is it so important to treat them well?

What do you learn from *II Timothy 2:23-25* and *James 3:17* about how we should treat people?
7. How do we demonstrate the reality of our faith in how we respond to suffering in our lives. (*1 Thessalonians 2:1-2, 1 Peter 3:16*)

How can we be a faithful witness during difficult times?
8. Who can you pray for this week that does not truly know Christ?

Taking it Home

Share prayer requests and pray *Ephesians 3:14-21* for Grace Hills Church.