

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Abounding in Hope

Romans 15:13

Additional passages: Psalm 27:13-14, 33:17-22, 130:7; Proverbs 13:12; Lamentations 3:21-26; Romans 8:23-25, 8:28-34; Colossians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:3-7.

Introduction: Pastor J.T. reminded us that God is the author and source of hope. Hope is one of the three virtues that most characterizes Christians, along with faith and love. Hope enables joy in every circumstance. In order to grow in hope, J.T. said we must:

- 1) Know Hope's Nature
- 2) Hold Fast to Hope's Author
- 3) Cultivate Hope's Fruit

Questions:

Hope defined biblically: A firm conviction that the future promises of God will be fulfilled: a sure expectation of future promises kept. Hope is faith applied to the future.

1. Do you have any questions about this definition?
2. Where does Romans 15:4-5 say hope comes from? Through what means does God strengthen our hope (Consider Ps 119:49)?
3. J.T. referenced false hope, which is a confident expectation in an unsure, fickle object. Who or what are you prone to placing false hope in (Psalm 33:17, Hosea 14:3, 1 Tim 6:17)?

J.T. prescribed holding fast to hope's author as the remedy for despair. He focused on how we can look to God's character and promises and look to God's Son in order to live with hope.

4. Read Psalm 27:13-14, 33:17-22, 130:7; Proverbs 13:12 and Lamentations 3:21-26. How is it going with hoping in God's character and believing His promises?
5. Read Romans 8:28-34; Colossians 1:27 and 1 Peter 1:3-7. What has Christ accomplished on your behalf? What impact does Christ's work have on your life? On your hope?
6. Based on Romans 5:3-5 and 8:23-25, what impact does hope have on someone?
7. Who could you encourage with the hope of the gospel this week? Think of a believer and a non-believer, pray for them by name and for boldness to share the hope of Jesus with them.