

## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **hope**



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#### **Get Started:**

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Q: What were some of those things?

Q: How'd you react in the morning when you found your long-awaited-gift?

Q: Okay – now, here's the reality check...how long did you play with that long-awaited-gift? Was it a few hours, a few days, even a few months? Do any of you still use that long-awaited-gift?

Probably not. There are many times in our lives we hope for, anticipate, and eagerly desire something that brings a counterfeit joy...it starts with small things as children; toys and games, but grows into bigger counterfeits as we age. The danger comes when we don't realize we're putting our hope in these counterfeit things...The danger is unrest, dissatisfaction, lack of hope...

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The question was begging to be answered in my own heart: How had I done the same? How was I depending on and leaning on counterfeit hope?

Q: What are common counterfeits for adults? (Example: job, financial security, etc.)

Q: Do you find yourself turning to a counterfeit on a regular basis? (Depending on the size of your group and time allotted, this may be a good time to share aloud.)

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Q: Why do you think that is? (b/c no counterfeits to distract them...He is all they have...etc.)

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Q: Have you ever been on a mission trip, etc., and observed people who, in the world's eyes, have nothing, but who exude joy in being in His presence? Share a little about that.

Q: Why do you think that is? (b/c no counterfeits to distract them...He is all they have...etc.)

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Q: What descriptions of this hope and inheritance do you find in this passage? (v. 3, 7, 8.)  
(NIV, 1:3 reads "living hope")

Q: What does verse 6 tell us we may suffer? Why?

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Read: Ps. 16:9, 31:24, 33:18, 33:22 38:15, 39:7, 43:5, 35:8-10, 130:7, I Cor. 15:19.

Q: What encouragement do you find in these passages?

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Q: What do you find in these passages?

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## Take It Home

*These questions are for personal quiet reflection. You may move to a quiet place if you'd like.*

Q: In what area are you struggling/hurting right now?

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Take a moment and talk to God about it...yield, and ask for His Hope to be your focus.

Q: Who will you talk to this week about your decision?

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## For Further Study:

The Living Hope not only dwells on high, but dwells within us. Read Romans 5:1-6. In what ways are you rejoicing in the Hope of the glory of God? How has suffering produced perseverance? How has your character changed b/c of this Hope-focused process? What personal testimony can you share about God's love being poured out in a difficult situation? How will this eternal-Hope focus change your schedule this week? Your spending? Your conversations?

## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **hope**



*Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.*

#### **Get Started:**

Have you ever found yourself super-excited about something? Think back to Christmas morning as a kid. You know there were things that you wanted for Christmas that had you so crazy you couldn't sleep, right?

Q: What were some of those things?

Q: How'd you react in the morning when you found your long-awaited-gift?

Q: Okay – now, here's the reality check...how long did you play with that long-awaited-gift? Was it a few hours, a few days, even a few months? Do any of you still use that long-awaited-gift?

Probably not. There are many times in our lives we hope for, anticipate, and eagerly desire something that brings a counterfeit joy...it starts with small things as children; toys and games, but grows into bigger counterfeits as we age. The danger comes when we don't realize we're putting our hope in these counterfeit things...The danger is unrest, dissatisfaction, lack of hope...

I saw this firsthand one year at a Christ in Youth conference with our high school students. We took a group of 70 mostly-churched-high school kids to CIY. There were about 2000 teens there that week. One of the most hard-hitting sessions happened midday, midweek. All the students were seated in the arena. They were given a piece of paper, and after listening to the speaker for a bit, given some specific instructions. Each student struggles with some sort of hurt – even if no one else knows, and they were instructed to write that “hurt” on this piece of paper and drop it into one of the buckets being passed down the rows. After all the papers were collected, they were redistributed around the arena. The result: Each student held in his/her hand the “hurt” of another student. The speaker stood before us and started going through the different types of pain the students may be experiencing. When a specific struggle or pain was spoken, the students holding the paper with that word stood. We watched as students stood, acknowledging the pain of other students; abuse, addiction, thoughts or attempted suicide, cutting, divorce, loneliness, depression, sexually transmitted diseases, and on, and on, and on.

We were broken at seeing the brokenness around us. It was apparent that we were ministering to a group of students who appear to have it “all together” – but are truly living in the world of counterfeit hope. Many of them were in these broken positions because of their habits of putting stock into things that look good but don't bring lasting joy, hope, peace...

The question was begging to be answered in my own heart: How had I done the same? How was I depending on and leaning on counterfeit hope?

Q: What are common counterfeits for adults? (Example: job, financial security, etc.)

Q: Do you find yourself turning to a counterfeit on a regular basis? (Depending on the size of your group and time allotted, this may be a good time to share aloud.)

### Get the Scoop:

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