

Resilient Faith in a Risky World: Week 1

May 10, 2020

Hebrews 11:1-12:2

Warming Up

1. Share with the group 1 thing in your life that you are really hoping for right now (besides the whole Covid-19 thing to be over☺). Why is that thing you're hoping for important to you?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Read Hebrews 11:1-2. The concept of "hope" is very prevalent in the book of Hebrews. Check out these passages also and discuss the following questions: (Heb. 3:6, 6:11, 18, 7:19, 10:23)

a. What seems to be the nature of Biblical hope? If you were to define it in 1 sentence, what would that sentence be?

b. How is Biblical hope different from what we often mean when we use the word "hope" in our everyday language?

c. What seems to be the connection between faith, and hope?

3. Who is your favorite Biblical character listed in Hebrews 11? Why? How has that character's example of faith, Challenged you? Encouraged you? Warned you? Comforted you?

4. Share with your group a time when you have had to step out in faith in God. How did God show Himself faithful during that season of life? Looking back, how did God provide, protect, guide, direct, empower you etc. in that step of faith? How can these experiences inform our present life situations?

Living the Gospel...

5. What truths seem to make up the content of our hope? Check out these passages and discuss:

Rom. 5:1-5, Romans 8:24-25, 31, Rom. 15:13, 1 Thes. 4:13-18, 1 Tim. 4:10, 1 Tim. 1:1, Titus 1:1-2, Heb. 6;17-18, 1 Pet. 1:3-5, Numbers 23:19,

6. How can (and should) Biblical hope impact a believer's life (attitudes, decisions, lifestyle, pursuits, priorities etc.)? What difference do you think THIS hope makes in YOUR everyday life? Try to be specific.

7. Read Hebrews 12:1 again. If you're brave enough, share with your group a particular struggle or sin that you need to repeatedly "throw off" or "lay aside" that can tend to weigh you down and hinder your spiritual growth. Ask the group to pray for you in that area.

Telling the Gospel...

9. What step of faith can you take in the next week to reach out to a non-believer in your life with the love of Christ and the gospel? Ask your group to pray for you and keep you accountable in this step of faith.

10. Have you ever shared God's work in your life with someone else (not just salvation but his overall faithfulness to you)? If so, what were the results? What types of things in your "story" about God's work in your life could you share with someone who needs to trust Christ? What intentional step of faith do you need to take this week?

Next Week: Hebrews 12:3-17