



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

From Message on: 10/4/20

Optional Opener Question

Tell about the time when you saw a beautiful sunrise or sunset – where were you and who were you with?

Introductory Thought

These uncertain times provide a great opportunity for Christians to show themselves as responding differently from the way the world responds to problems: we can be Light, Hope and a Bridge.

Discussion Questions

- Be the Light: come up with 5 characteristics of light and 5 of darkness. If you're having trouble picturing darkness, imagine yourself in a cave when they turn the light out. If I want to "Be the Light" in the circle I live and work in, what would that look like?
- Read Jesus' words in John 8:12. What do you think Jesus meant to convey to His audience? Are His words still relevant to audiences today?
- Add Eph 5:8-16 to the discussion. What does "living as children of the Light" mean and how do I do it? Am I the Light or a Mirror? What's the difference and what are the implications of that difference? Does that mean that I become like a conscience, illuminating all the sins and faults of family, friends and co-workers? In what contexts would a single candlelight be more effective than a massive searchlight? Now apply those thoughts to a Thanksgiving dinner with a dozen relatives, some of whom don't know Jesus (yet!). Insights?
- Be the Hope: define Hope. Hint: it's not wishful thinking or writing out your list for Santa. Read these verses and come up with an understanding of Biblical hope. See if you can also verbalize the opposite of hope.
 - Titus 2:12-14 Romans 15:13 Hebrews 6:18-20 Romans 5:3-5
- Finish these sentences (maybe a couple of ways):
 - I can be known as a hopeful person because...
 - The world needs (Biblical) hope because..... Romans 15:13
- Brent said, "What we dwell on is what we become." What do you think he meant by that? What does it mean to dwell on something? Read Phil 4:8. Why do you think Paul used the word "think" or "fix your minds"? In what ways do negative thoughts become like a hamster wheel? How do the positive words feed HOPE and the negative thoughts feed HOPELESSNESS? Is worry the opposite of hope?
- Be the Bridge: Picture God building a bridge over a gully and crossing over to us. What are the two sides? Read 1 Tim 2:5 and John 3:16. What are some ways that he continues to cross that bridge in our everyday lives? Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 to add to the discussion.
- In what ways can I be a bridge ...
 - Between God and the "not-yet-convinced" about Jesus?
 - Between God's heart and the physical & emotional needs of those around me?
 - When I act like a peacemaker between two people?
 - When asked for an answer for the reason for my faith?
 - When I create a positive picture of another person - or the reverse, when I gossip and spread "news?"
- How could Brent's words "NR is a safe place" be a bridge for someone? What could the implications be with the conviction that each of us are standing on that NR bridge? Read Eph 2:10: you are an important part of God's Bridge to the world!!

Practical Application & Next Steps

- Which one of those is God putting his finger on? If the Light of Jesus isn't inside of you yet, ask someone in the next seven days to help you. If you've put your Hope on earthly things instead of on Jesus, determine to realign your mindset. If you're hesitant to give God permission to use you as a Bridge for His purposes, tell Him it's ok. Tell one person in your group how to pray for you as you embark on a new adventure with Jesus.