

Finding Hope – Lent Week 5

IDENTITY
THIS IS YOU

Connect Guide March 17 and 18

Take this paper and take the sermon home with you. Reflect on the passage and discussion questions. Consider how to apply the message to your life. Study alone or gather a group. This guide will enrich and encourage you on your path to discipleship and deepen your relationship with God

Scripture

Romans 8:26-30... *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



Discuss

1. Who carries the cooler in your crew on a picnic outing? Is it better to go it alone or have a helper? Did you know the Holy Spirit is sometimes called “the helper?”
2. Read Romans chapter 8 in its entirety. This sermon series digs deep into studying this powerful passage. What are some things you learned last week about eternal hope? How do suffering and glory relate? What’s Jesus got to do with it?
3. Read Romans 8:26. Pastor Rich said, “the hope of heaven is the hope of right now.” How can the same future hope for heaven be the hope for the suffering world of today?
4. Adam and Eve thought they could make themselves better. Why? Do you want to be better? What makes us better?
5. Read Romans 8:28, what does God work for?
6. For what good does God use our suffering? How can your difficult life circumstances or consequence be redeemed?
7. Read Acts 1:14. If you are praying at 1:14 for our church, consider this week praying for our ability to LEAD. Leading others to Jesus can be through personal ministry and relationship but also through missions of the church body. Ask God to help you and the church LEAD others to Jesus.

Apply

God knows your identity and He’s waiting for you to live into the best you. He doesn’t waste your struggles, your pain or your suffering. In fact, God can give your pain a purpose, make your hurt helpful, give your past a promise. He takes those things and He works in them and uses them to make you more like Jesus. Where do you need God to work in your life today? Where’s the struggle? Where do you need to call on the Holy Spirit to come alongside you and help?

Prayer

God, this is us. We confess that we have not always lived into your standards or purposes. Lord, we acknowledge that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Thank you for loving us just as we are. Teach and guide us as we journey through the season of Lent to find, know and proclaim our identity in YOU and you alone. In Jesus Name, Amen.