

**Sermon-Based Discussion Questions**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS:**

What was a highlight from this past week?

What was a challenge?

**LIVING HOPE – Bringing Hope**

This week we talked about the challenge of being someone who brings hope to others who are struggling. The Old Testament prophet Habakkuk looked at the world and had a hard time reconciling what he believed to be true about the goodness of God and the pain, suffering, and injustice in the world. Habakkuk asked his questions, as he EMBRACED what he believed about the goodness of God AND as he WRESTLED with his doubts, disappointments, and discouragement. But Habakkuk wasn't doing this for himself; he was doing this for the people he served as a Prophet. It is hard to bring hope to people who are in seemingly hopeless situations.

Q: Why is it difficult to bring hope to others who are in challenging situations that are filled with doubt, hurt, pain, grief, disappointment, or discouragement?

Doug told the story of CS Lewis who is a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Habakkuk who wrestled with doubt, pain, and questions but ultimately embraced a deep faith. His faith impacted millions through his writings. Doug said, you may not be a CS Lewis but your story can bring hope to others. Doug said, “When God builds a big faith in your life there is faith enough for others...it is CONTAGIOUS. And when you go first with HOPE, others may follow.”

What does it look like right now in your story for you to “go first with hope”?

Do you have any areas in your life where God has brought hope to you that could benefit others?

**READ: Mark 2:1-12**

How did these friends of the paralytic bring hope to their friends' life?

What are the takeaways from their story that could help us be messengers and hope bringers to others?

Doug said “Never underestimate the impact of the HOPE you have on behalf of others. “  
Who is it in your life that you need to have hope for these days?

Doug said, when you don't know what to do for someone, just try to be PRESENT WITH EMPATHY. Empathy means not just understanding how they feel but being joining them where they are.

Has anyone ever done that for you? Who was it and what did they do well?

Doug pointed to Jesus as the one who shows us the best example of what it means to BE PRESENT WITH EMPATHY. **READ: Hebrews 4:15**

What does this tell us about the empathy of Jesus?

**READ: Romans 12:12-15**

What does this passage tell us about having hope for our situations and bringing hope to other people's situations?

What are some ways we can "*rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn*" together?

**TAKING IT HOME:**

What is your application for your life from this week's message?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Spend some time praying for each other.

*\*\*\*Challenge everyone to pray for each other throughout the week.*