

Let There Be Small Group Discussion guide

Session 1: -Hope

Introduction:

Have you ever used the phrase, “ I hope it works out”? We all have at some point used the word “Hope” to describe something we are expecting. The very definition of hope is this; *a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen*. Many of us have said things like this: “ I hope I win the lottery”, or “I hope I get a better job”, or “ I hope they don’t run out of Reesie Cups”. We use this word *hope* all the time, because we have a desire for a certain thing to happen.

As we enter into the Christmas season, I am reminded that God sent HOPE into the world in the strangest of ways. God had used the prophets to speak of the “hope” that would come one day. A deliverer would come and rescue and redeem us. The people were ready and expectant to seeing the promise of the Savior come into the world. But, their hearts began to grow faint because the promised messiah had not yet come. It had been 400 years since the last prophet spoke of the “promised one” that would be Hope for the world. Then when all seemed hopeless, and the time was right, God sent hope into the world in the form a baby, which was Christ the Lord.

We are in a series called *Let There Be* which will focus on Advent. The word *advent* means “coming” or “arrival,” and the season is marked by expectation, waiting, anticipation, and longing. My prayer for you as we go through this season of “Hope”, is that you discover the grace and mercy of God. That you will understand where our true “HOPE” comes from.

This week will look at [Colossians 1:21-29](#) and [Isaiah 40:21-31](#)

Read [Colossians 1:21-29](#)

Discussion Questions

Question 1: In verse 22 & 23, Paul tells us, “²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and

steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven..”

- What is the “hope of the Gospel” that Paul is referring too?
- How do you live out the hope of the Gospel in life?

Question 2: In verses 26-27 Paul states, “²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- **What is the mystery that has been hidden that Paul is referring too?**
- **What is the hope of glory that he is referring too?** (Allow group members to share their thoughts before you help them understand the answer)

Say: God revealed himself to the Jews, but now the word of God was revealed to the gentiles. Paul tells us that we were once alienated from God and were his enemies because of evil behavior. But, now he has reconciled us by Christ (the hope of the world) through his death that we may be presented Holy & blameless without accusation because he has set us free. The mystery that has been hidden is the word of God in its fulness, Jesus Christ, but now is on display through the church. God made a way for gentiles to have the mystery of the gospel revealed to them, by the church. The church is the hope of glory.

Discuss what this means and how do we display “Hope” to the world?

Read Isaiah 40:21-31

Question 3: Where do you put your Hope? What are you expecting in your life?

In verses 21-26, Isaiah is being reminded of how great our God is and how powerful he is. Discuss ways God reminds you of how he is our Hope.

Micah 7:7 tells us, “But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.” **Is this true for you? Do you watch & wait for the Lord or do you just run ahead of where he is? Discuss what God is currently teaching you.**

Question 4: In Isaiah 40:28-3, we are reminded of how God will not grow weary or tired.

- **Are you putting your hope in things will grow weary and tired?**
- **Discuss how you have seen God, in your own life, renew your strength, because you have put your Hope in Him.**

- **Why do you think many people do not have hope?**

Next Steps

1. **Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
2. **Take action this week to write down ways you see God on display in your life.**
3. **Pray that God would put you in the path of someone where you can point them to the real hope.**
4. **Look for ways to bless others around you.**

Pray and Dismiss