

Summary

The sermon discusses the power of hope as a foundation for successful Christian living, using both modern examples and the biblical story of Ruth. The pastor emphasizes that hope is not merely a stepping stone to faith, but works in conjunction with faith and is essential for spiritual growth. Through Ruth's story, he illustrates how hope anchors us to God, changes our attitudes, and provides strength for life's challenges.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would fill our hearts with hope. Help us to be open to Your voice and to understand how hope can transform our lives. Guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another in faith and hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when someone gave you hope when you really needed it.

Key Verses

1. Colossians 1:3-6
2. Hebrews 6:19
3. Psalm 42:5
4. Isaiah 40:31
5. Proverbs 13:12

Questions

1. How would you define hope based on this message? How is it different from how the world defines hope?
2. The pastor mentioned that hope anchors us to 'irrational love.' What does this mean to you, and have you experienced this in your own life?
3. How does worship relate to hope according to the message? Why is it important to worship even when we don't feel like it?
4. In what ways can hope change our attitude during difficult times?
5. The sermon discusses how Ruth's hope led her to serve others. How can serving others strengthen our hope?
6. What's the relationship between hope and faith according to this message?

7. How does the concept of 'waiting in hope' apply to your current life situation?
8. The pastor mentioned that hope helps us 'grow through' difficulties rather than just get through them. What does this look like practically?

Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where hope feels dim. Commit to spending at least 10 minutes each day in worship and prayer specifically focused on renewing your hope in that area. Also, find one practical way to serve someone else, even as you wait for your own breakthrough.

Key Takeaways

1. Hope is an expectation of good and an anticipation of God working on our behalf
2. Hope anchors us, changes our attitude, and brings strength
3. Worship is a key tool for building and maintaining hope
4. Hope enables us to serve others even while waiting for our own answers
5. Our hope should be anchored in heaven, not in earthly circumstances

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of hope. Help us to anchor ourselves in You, to maintain attitudes of hope through worship, and to find strength in hoping in You. Give us the courage to serve others even as we wait for our own breakthroughs. May we be people who spread hope wherever we go. In Jesus' name, Amen.