



Community Life

Living as a community intentionally focused on cultivating the life of Christ in others.



GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 5 – FINDING JOY *Through Hope*

ARRIVAL/CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 Minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

OPENING DISCUSSION: (15 minutes)

- Spend some time sharing your hopes with one another (leader take notes). What are the things you are hoping for in life and what is it that keeps those hopes “alive” or energized?

Definitions according to Dan J.:

A wish is the desire for something better, or at least different, based on what we think life ought to be.

Hope is the confident expectation of joy based on who God is, what God has done, and what God promises He will do.

- What are the primary differences between the two?

SCRIPTURE and DISCUSSION: (35 minutes)

Have someone read **1 Peter 1:3-5**, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Then reflect quietly for a moment. Read it again if you like and discuss. (keep your Bibles open to this page)

- How does a greater understanding of the Father’s “great mercy” affect the level of hope in our lives?
- Why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to hope? Which of your hopes in life would remain if Jesus had not risen from the grave?
- How is faith in the power of God’s Spirit to keep us in His love essential to hope? If you thought that maybe you could fall out of his love, how would that influence your ability to hope?

Reasons for Hope:

1. We have a merciful Father
2. We have a living Savior
3. We have a powerful Guardian

REFLECTION: (15 minutes) Read **1 Peter 1:6-7**, reflect quietly, and discuss.

- Choose one or two of the hopes expressed by your group members in question 1 and consider that hope based on who God is, what God has done, and what God promises He will do. How does thinking through what you hope for in this way effect the hope you have?

Hope and Joy:

1. Hope “fuels” joy even when life is not the way we “wish” it could be.
2. Hope and joy grow together as we learn to find life in Christ.
3. One day, hope will be consumed by joy when faith becomes sight and we are “consumed” by the glory of Jesus.

SURRENDER: (15 minutes) Read **1 Peter 1:8-9**, reflect quietly.

- Share some promises of God that give you hope.

PRAYER: (10 minutes) Pray for one another, asking that God will help you hold onto the hope He has given you until your hope is complete, and your joy is full.