

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Hope

John 1:35-51

Biblical Definition: Hope is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future.

Pastor John noted that hope is future oriented.

John Piper explains further:

“Hope, as it is used in the Bible for the distinctive experience of Christian hope, is always a confidence concerning the future. It’s a confidence, not a finger-crossing wish. So that separates the Christian hope from most other uses of *hope* in the English language. Romans 5:5 says, “Hope does not put us to shame.” It is rock-solid, sure. You can be confident. That’s Christian hope” (Cf. Rom 8:24-25).

Questions

- 1) What in Pastor John’s sermon stirred your hope in the plan and work of God in the world through His Son Jesus? How has God strengthened your faith in Him over the years and recently in particular?

Every Christian is prone to disillusionment and despair overtaking hope as we walk through life, particularly when our experience does not seem to be lining up with God’s promises in His Word.

- 2) What are aspects of disappointment in your life, now or in the past, that threaten to dim the light of your confidence in God? Is there an aspect of God’s character that is particularly hard for you to believe is true (that He is holy, good, loving, kind, just, etc.)?
- 3) When you experience disappointment, discouragement, what do you do? To whom or what do you turn? Do you think God cares about you when you are discouraged?

Pastor John noted that we gain access to God the Father through Jesus the Son. He said Jesus is the fullness of God, the culmination of all divine revelation, meaning that Jesus has uninterrupted fellowship with His Father and reveals Him in all that He says and does. If we are in Jesus, we have this same access to God.

- 4) Have you trusted in Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- 5) How is it going with experiencing closeness in your relationship with God through Jesus? With receiving from God and responding with worship?
- 6) How can we encourage you to live with confident expectation in the promises of God?