



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Advent 2024

The Fruit of Hope

Romans 8:22-25

1. This week we begin a study through the season of Advent. The word “advent” means “arrival”, and during what is now called the Christmas season, we celebrate the arrival or coming of Jesus that Messiah, the Son of God come to earth to give his life for the salvation of men and women - the Creator coming to save His creation. Each year during the Celebration of the Advent of Jesus, we are each to look inward and be reminded of our great need for salvation - we are saved from sin and into a relationship with Him.

How would you say most people approach this season?

Consider **Isaiah 63:17** “**Why, so you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?**”

How have you entered Advent in past years? What changes do you need to make this year to make sure you allow God to speak to you in the coming weeks?

2. Read **Mark 4:35-39 (NLT)** **As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” 36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). 37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. 38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” 39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**

Faith is what we know and believe. Hope is future Faith and yet we believe. Hope is 100% confidence in the future promises of God.

Why do you think it was so hard for the disciples to exhibit faith and hope in this situation?

How would you evaluate your level of faith and hope as you encounter life’s challenges?

Share an example of when you have gone through this type of challenge to your faith and grew spiritually because of it.

3. The disciples were immature in their faith and hope is faith matured. Pastor Josh said this in his sermon: The Disciples had faith **IN** Jesus but not the Faith **OF** Jesus, Which is Hope.

Would you say your faith is mature or immature? Why?

What are your thoughts about Pastor Josh's statement?

Read **Romans 5:5 "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."**

Since this verse states that Hope comes from the work of the Holy Spirit in our life, what should believers be doing in order to grow in their hope?

4. It is our ability to know and choose the relationship we were intended to have with God that will cause us to have growing hope in the daily battle that is the Christian life. This means that we cannot become impatient to grow all at once.

Read **Romans 8:25: "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."**

What are practical ways in which we can let God increase our hope?

How will you make sure you apply them as the Advent season continues?