

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What are one or two personal goals or dreams that you're hopeful about achieving in the coming year or two?

OR

On a scale of 1-10, 1 being very low and 10 being very high, how important is hope in this season of your life?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Hebrews 6:9-20

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

Discuss the role hope played in the life of Hannah, Paul and Joseph.

Host Guidance: Joseph: Despite being sold into slavery and unjustly imprisoned, Joseph held onto hope and eventually saw God's plan unfold as he rose to become a high-ranking official in Egypt. Paul: The apostle Paul's life was marked by hope in Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Despite facing imprisonment and persecution, he continued to spread the message of hope. Hannah: Her story is centered around her deep desire for a child and her unwavering hope in God's provision.

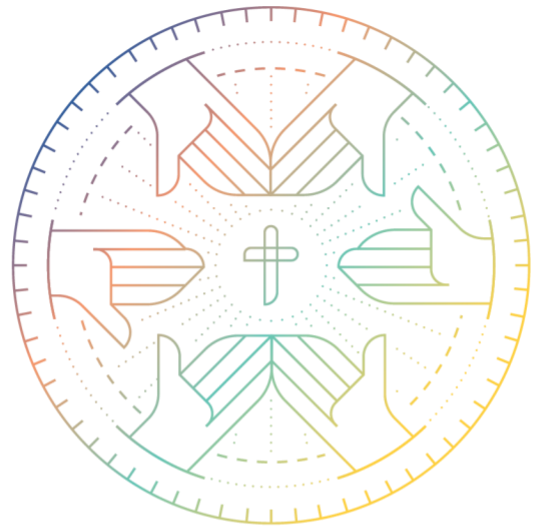
INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

Read 1 Peter 1:3. What does it mean to be born again to a living hope?

Host Guidance: Before we came to know Jesus as our Savior, we were by nature children of wrath and dead in our sins. Because of Jesus, we have been given new life which overcomes death and provides for us an inheritance that is incorruptible and cannot fade away. It is living in that it is eternal and never-ending.

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Read Hebrews 7:19. How is the hope we have as New Testament believers a "better hope"?

Host Guidance: Our hope is better, because it is based on the perfect sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. That forgiveness is eternal and covers past, present and future sins. It is a better hope because it is based on a better covenant, and a better mediator of that covenant: Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus, it is superior to the Mosaic Covenant in the Old Testament and the hope that it provided.

Read Hebrews 6:19. Discuss the meaning of this verse. What is the "hope" being referred to by the author? How is this hope an "anchor of the soul"?

Host Guidance: God has guaranteed his covenant and the hope we have because of it. It is guaranteed by the surety of his word. God swore an oath and it is impossible for God to lie. This hope is our refuge. This hope brings us stability and will keep us from being tossed like a small boat in the wind. It is an anchor that will keep us stable, grounded, and safe.

Read Lamentations 3:21-26 and Psalm 42:11. What do these verses have in common? What are we being instructed to do in these verses and in what practical ways can we use these verses?

Host Guidance: Both of these passages speak to our ability to encourage our own soul. We can encourage ourselves by reminding ourselves of the nature of God, his promises, and his faithfulness. The Psalmist encourages us to speak to our soul when we are downcast. We do that by rehearsing and declaring our confidence in the promises of God.

APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

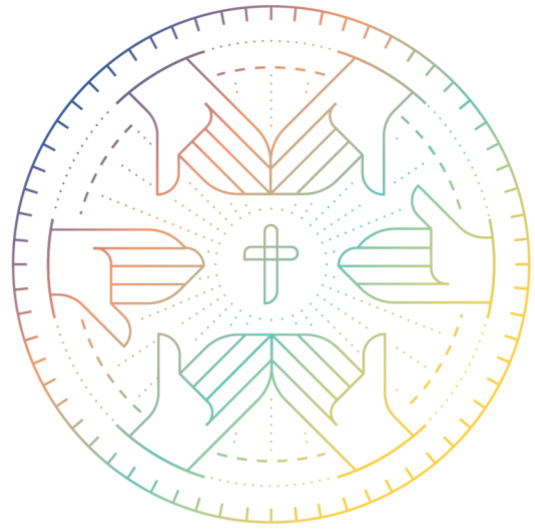
Below are several separate application questions for your group to consider and discuss. Choose as many questions as you have time to discuss, but don't feel pressure to cover them all.

David mentioned some of the "things" people tend to put their hope. Have you ever mistakenly hoped in something or someone other than God? If you can, share that situation with your group.

Which of God's attributes speaks most powerfully to your heart in bringing about biblical hope? Take time to share your answer with the group. Here's a short list of attributes of God:

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Goodness	Omnipotence
Grace	Omnipresence
Holiness	Omniscience
Immanence	Righteousness
Immutability	Self-Existence
Justice	Sovereignty
Love	Mercy

What's something you are currently hoping for God to do in the future as you look to God in faith? Share that hope with your group. Close your time together, praying for each other and those things you are hoping God will do.

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, our source of unwavering hope, guide us through shadows of life and doubt. May Your promises illuminate our hearts and fostering endurance and trust in Your divine plan. In trials, let us find peace, knowing Your steadfast love leads us to a future filled with hope. Amen.