

Embody



Embody – Introduction to the series.

ICEBREAKER

If you imagine someone who embraces what it means to be an Ohio State Buckeye fan, what attributes come to your mind?

OR

If you had to pick one value, virtue, or principle you would like to embody more in your daily life, what would it be and why?

SUPPLEMENTAL VIDEO

Scan the QR code found on the right side of the back of your “HOST RESOURCES” card in your small group kit. Watch or listen to the video as a group, prior to starting the rest of your discussion.

INTRODUCTION

For Fairhaven, the concept of "Find Hope" emerged years ago when research revealed that hopelessness was one of our community's main struggles. Consequently, we wanted our community to know that genuine, lasting hope can be found in a relationship with Jesus. That's how a simple idea became the heartbeat of our church.

Do you believe that hope is still a resounding need within our communities? Why?

How has the hope of Jesus changed your life?

Over the next six weeks, we want to clarify our approach to remain effective in our mission of helping people Find Hope in Jesus. We are so glad you're with us!

WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION

INTO GOD'S WORD

Read Romans 15:13. How is God “the God of hope”? What is the connection between the power of the Holy Spirit and your hope? Does your faith bring you joy and peace? How?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15-17. What does it mean to "no longer live for themselves" in the context of this verse?

How does Christ's death change the way we view and live our lives?

What does it mean for "the old to pass away"? How might this play out in a believer's life?

In what ways does the "new" life in Christ manifest itself?

Read 1 Peter 1:8-11. What increasing qualities is Peter referring to? How do these qualities protect us from being ineffective or unfruitful?

Why do you think these qualities are connected to a “richly provided... entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”?

APPLICATION

1. Daily surrender to hope in God: begin your day by surrendering your concerns, anxieties, and desires to God in prayer. Acknowledge Him as the God of hope, asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with joy and peace as you trust Him.
2. Rely on the Holy Spirit for empowerment: make it a daily habit to invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and emotions, especially when facing challenging situations.
3. Live for Christ, not yourself: ask God to help you see choices you are making that are self-centered, versus others-centered or God-centered. When He does, respond in obedience to correct that choice.

WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION

4. Grow in spiritual qualities: choose one quality from 1 Peter 1:8-11 to focus on this week. Pray that God would help you to see ways to grow that quality within you and ways to express that quality in everyday life.

P R A Y E R

Dear Father, I recognize and acknowledge that you were inviting me into a deeper life with you, which will help me better live the life that you created me to live. I confess that there are lots of ways in which I need to grow deeper in my love for you and my desire to walk in the light. Thank you for your immeasurable grace and patience. Lead me to thirst for the living water that only you can provide help me to embrace and embody the hope of Jesus each and every day. Amen.

S U G G E S T E D R E S O U R C E S

Mulholland, M. Robert. *The Deeper Life: Surrendering to the Call of Christian Maturity*. Baker Books, 2016.

Thomas, Gary. *The Glorious Pursuit: Becoming Who God Created Us to Be*. NavPress, 2020.

Comer, John Mark. *Practicing the Way: Becoming Like Jesus*. WaterBrook, 2023.