

Hope Rises week 4

These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV and The Message.

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Series Overview: Everyone likes the idea of hope, but what happens when the floor falls out from under you and you find yourself feeling broken, abandoned or forgotten? Sometimes we experience suffering that doesn't seem to have a purpose, so what do we do when we believe but are also wrestling with unbelief? Can hope rise in the midst of pain?

//TALK

Ice Breaker - What was the worst job you ever had and why?

Q1 – Have you ever had one of those moments in life when things didn't quite go your way but you went ahead and pushed forward and realized it was all worth it...or at least you hoped it would be? What was the outcome?

Q2 – Read **Habakkuk 2:20 and Psalm 46:10** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in these passages? Do you see any correlation between them or similar tone? What do you believe Habakkuk is saying with his statement?

Q3 – In the message Sunday, something was said to the affect of: "Some people experience a crisis or some sort of pain in their life and just deny it – they pretend it isn't happening. Some people experience it and they walk away from God because they feel betrayed or forgotten. Habakkuk doesn't do either – **He praises God in the midst of the pain, before the good results, because he knows that God is good and deserves the honor.**" Would you agree with this thought/statement, why or why not? Have you ever had similar reactions to pain or crisis?

Q4 – Read **Habakkuk 3:2-4** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in this passages? How can we be inspired by Habakkuk's conversation/prayer/song with God in these verses? What can we learn for ourselves in handling difficulties in life?

Q5 – The statement was made that "**God is good even when life is not.**" Is this a true statement or just a Christian response to not wanting to deal with real pain? What if God was always good, even when your situation wasn't? How would that change your outlook on the situation you are going through or have gone through in the past?

Q6 – Read **Matthew 5:45** - [Read in different translations] In your own words, what is being said in this passages? What can we learn from Jesus' words here? How can we be encouraged by these words or use them to encourage others?

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: Read all of Habakkuk 3. Take time to cross reference passages and study.

//THE POINT

God is good, even when life is not.

//MEMORIZE

Matthew 5:45 - 45 ...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

//PRAY

As you share prayer requests, take time to personally make requests known in an honest and safe environment.

Encourage everyone to write down requests and to pray during the week. If others are comfortable, allow group members to pray for one another's need.