

HOPE RISING

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 1

1. Pastor Rick explained the difference between the word “hope” as it is commonly used and how it is used in the Bible, what was the difference?

Answer – Most people when they use the word hope it has a wishful connotation, like “I hope the Broncos win.” There is no certainty. The word hope in the Bible literally means, “an expectation that what has been promised will be done.” It has the idea that whatever God has promised, such as a home in heaven, will come to pass without a doubt.

2. Why is it so important for people to have hope? What happens when a person has no hope? Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt hopeless? What can we do to help a person who has lost all hope?
3. The most important hope of all is the hope of going to heaven when you die. So here is the most important question: Are you absolutely sure if you were to die you would go to heaven? Are you wishful in your answer or are you absolutely certain? The Bible says you can be absolutely certain, how can that be?

Answer – This is a great opportunity to make sure that your group members understand the gospel, that salvation has nothing to do with how good you are. If a person understands that their only hope of getting to heaven is Jesus, then they know they will go to heaven because it is not up to them but completely rests on the fact that Jesus paid for all of their sins. This is the idea of eternal security, that you cannot do anything to obtain your salvation and you do not need to do anything to keep yourself saved, it is all by God’s power, not ours.

4. How can the hope of heaven in the future help us in the here-and-now? How should the hope of heaven change the way we live today?

Answer – The hope of heaven can help us now when we have to endure trying times in our lives. For a Christian, what you suffer in this life is your hell, it is the worst it will ever get. No matter what we go through now, it is only temporary. It should change how we live our lives because we realize that the time we have on earth is but a moment compared to eternity, so we should live our lives today for the things that will last forever.

5. What does knowing that you will live forever with God in heaven mean to you personally? Do you fear death? Why or why not?