

HOPE RISING

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 3

1. What is the difference between optimism and hope?

Answer – Optimism is a psychological state of mind based on the assumption that everything will turn out to be good. Hope in Christianity is the certainty that God is in control of everything and therefore everything will turn out in a way that God has guaranteed it will.

2. Pastor Jason said that our hope in God is the anchor of our lives, what do you think that means? What are some things (other than God) that people rely on to be the anchor of their lives? What is the difference between the two and why is God superior to all other anchors? Has there ever been anything in your life that you relied on as an anchor that turned out not to be reliable?

3. Read Jeremiah 17:5-8 together. What two types of people are contrasted in this passage? If a person's trust, their anchor, is based on something of this world, how are they described? What about the person whose hope is in the Lord?

4. Pastor Jason said that one of the results of having hope in God is knowing that everything will be okay in the end. Read Romans 5:28 and discuss what you think this verse means. Does this verse promise that everything that happens to us will be good? What does it promise? How can this verse give us hope when things aren't good? Who can claim this promise according to this verse? Can you recall an instance in your life where God took something in your life that was not good but caused it to actually be beneficial to you?

5. Read Romans 15:13. Pastor Jason said that having hope in God will bring peace to your life, why do you think that is true? How can you have peace when many things in your life seem to be going bad?