



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Satisfying the Longing for Hope | January 23, 2022

Summary

Real hope grows out of worship. When we get a clear picture of God's glory and grace, we are filled with hope!

Scripture

... I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." –Isaiah 6:1-8

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world." -John 4:28-30, 39-42 (NLT)

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"... As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. -Acts 7:55-56, 59-60 (NLT)

Let's Start

What are your hopes for 2022? What are your hopes for your loved ones for 2022? What are your hopes for Wooddale for 2022?

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Talk

1. What did you learn about hope from the video about Nina?
2. Look at the three Scripture passages. How do Isaiah, the Samaritan woman and Stephen demonstrate that worship results in hope?
3. Pastor Dale gave six principles about finding hope in worship:
 - To find hope in our worship of God, we must also see the sin that lies within our hearts.
 - To find hope in our worship of God, we must see Him for Who He is in order to see ourselves for who we are, unworthy and sinful.
 - To find hope in our worship of God, we must practice worship in real time!
 - Worshipping God in the moment gives us courage to face our darkest valleys and grace to forgive our worst enemies.
 - One of the sure signs of encountering Jesus in worship is you cannot keep quiet about Him.
 - People who truly encounter God in worship discover their ultimate purpose in life is to bring the hope of Christ to those who are searching for satisfaction in life.

Do you have examples or insights into the principles above? How can you put these "hopes" into practice?

4. Pastor Dale spoke of the following pattern with the example of Isaiah. Have you found this pattern true in your life as well? If not, why?
 - A right vision of God
 - Confession
 - Forgiveness
 - Obedience

Let's Act

Make it a priority to worship the Lord each day. If desired, use the following verses to help focus your mind and heart on God.

O God, you are my God;
I earnestly search for you.
My soul thirsts for you;
my whole body longs for you
in this parched and weary land
where there is no water.
I have seen you in your sanctuary
and gazed upon your power and glory.
Your unfailing love is better than life itself;
how I praise you!
I will praise you as long as I live,
lifting up my hands to you in prayer. –Psalm 63:1-4 (NLT)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:1-6 (NIV)

Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

For who can know the LORD’s thoughts?
Who knows enough to give him advice?
And who has given him so much
that he needs to pay it back?

For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. –Romans 11:33-36 (NLT)
