

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of February 18, 2018

Speaker: Ray Johnston

NOTES TO LEADERS: *So I will say it – this week is different, long, and challenging. It was a change from the norm and done in haste. However, it can also be a good thing. There is no opening discussion and there are many Scriptures references. The KEY idea is that we who have confidence and certainty of our eternal future should be living out this hope in our worlds. People will see and hear His hope in us and we can help them take steps toward the God of living hope.*

Home Group Notes

“Real Hope”

What is hope?

The word “hope” commonly means “wishful thinking” or “to desire with anticipation.” The word “hope” in the Bible (“*elpis*” - Greek), means “confidence toward the future.” Makes notes about who has “hope,” why they have it, and what it looks like.

Galatians 5:5

Ephesians 2:12

Colossians 1:5

1 Timothy 4:10

Titus 1:2; 2:11-13

Hebrews 10:23

1 Peter 1:3, 13

Those “in Christ” are called to share this hope. What do we learn from these Scriptures?

Ephesians 1:18

Colossians 1:27

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

1 Timothy 5:5; 6:17

1 Peter 3:15

1 John 3:3

DISCUSS TOGETHER

If hope is ‘confidence in our future,’ what are other places that people put their confidence?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This list is long. People put their confidence in . . .*

- Their abilities (skills, etc.)
- Their own resources (money, position)
- Their looks
- Their friends or family
- Their education, sports, etc.

From Scriptures you read above, how can we share the hope that we have in Christ? What enables us? What is necessary?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *1 Peter 3:15 is often cited as leverage challenging believers to learn how to answer intellectual questions. While this can be helpful, the focus is on how we can have “hope” (confidence) while suffering harm. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 teaches us how to respond to death of a believer in such a way that “the rest of people” see a difference.*

Why does it feel difficult to share the hope we have? What might change this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *On the surface, it appears easy. We have the cure for the hopeless – those without confidence in their eternal future. But, we sometimes hold back. Why?*

- *Fears (there are many kinds) (What might happen if...?)*
- *Feeling ill-prepared or inadequate (Who am I?)*
- *Failing to trust in the Holy Spirit (Thinking I do this on my own)*
- *Lack of compassion (We can put it off, make it someone else’s issue, or just not care enough to risk)*

NOTES TO LEADERS: *I AM PRAYING THAT THE TRUTHS WE HAVE LEARNED IN THIS SERIES AND THE CONVERSATIONS AND PRAYERS IN YOUR GROUP WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PRAY, WATCH, AND INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE IN THEIR WORLD TO KNOW THE HOPE OF JESUS.*

Grace to you,

Steve