

WELCOME

My mom had a debilitating fear of flying. For her, traveling by plane wasn't an option when it came to visiting family that lived out of state. But this all changed when our daughter was born. The only way ma'am could see her new granddaughter was to fly from where she lived in Cleveland to Dallas. So, she summoned all her courage and made the trip. The hope of seeing her new grandbaby allowed her to overcome her lack of faith in air travel, because she so desperately wanted to see the person at the other end of the journey. Faith offers us the belief of eternity. But we live by the hope that Jesus is at the other end of our journey.

Key Question: How do I _____ with the hardships and struggles of life?

Key Idea: I can _____ with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

- The first cause: Believe in _____
- The second cause: Believe in the _____ making the promise.

Key Verse:

"We have this _____ as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf." Hebrews 6:19-20

(Key Application #1): if you want to increase your hope, get to know and _____ Jesus better.

(Key Application #2): If you want to increase your hope, get to know and trust Jesus' _____

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the key verse and key idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE:

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf." Hebrews 6:19-20

KEY IDEA: I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging? Why?

- I think a great deal about heaven and what God is preparing for me as a Christian.
- I am confident that God is working everything out for my good, regardless of the circumstances today.
- My hope in God increases through my daily pursuit to live like Christ.
- My hope for the future is no found in my health or wealth because both are so uncertain and, but in God.

1. We are all guilty at times of placing our faith in false hopes. Which one (riches, people, idols, human government) is most alluring to you? Why?

2. What ways have false hopes let you down in the past?

3. Hope is not an emotion you can make yourself feel through willpower. So what action steps can you take in order to develop a greater sense of hope?

4. What experiences with God have increased your ability to trust him and his promises?

Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3

1. Faith and hope seem to be the underlying characteristics of all biblical heroes. In what way do these characteristics work together?

2. Which character's story of faith do you feel exhibited the most hope in God's promises? Why?

3. It is easy to "grow weary and lose heart" in this broken world. What does the writer of this passage encourage you to do in order to combat hopelessness?

CASE STUDY:

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's key idea into practice.

Your cousin Rob has trust issues, which is understandable. His dad your uncle run out on the family just before Rob's twelfth birthday. Friends and coworkers have continually taken advantage of his generosity and kindness. In an

honest moment on your back porch, he confesses that he believes in God but does not trust him. He goes on to explain that he desires to trust God but fears that his past has caused him to be irreversibly jaded.

Use the following key applications from this session, discuss what you could say or do to help rob begin to trust in God's character and his promises.

Key Application #1: if you want to increase your hope, get to know and trust Jesus better.

Key Application #2: If you want to increase your hope, get to know and trust Jesus' promises

CLOSING PRAYER:

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's key idea into practice.

Verses used in video

2 Cor 4:16-17

Heb 6:19-20

Luke 2:27-32