

Endless Summer-Hope
1 Corinthians 13:13, Acts 5:40-43, Acts 7:54-8:3 and 1 Peter 1:3-4 and 6-9
August 6, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/38762>

INSPIRATION

We need a living hope to get through life and endure suffering. A living hope enables us to have both sorrow and joy. Our living hope is an inheritance achieved for us by Christ." (Tim Keller)

ICE BREAKER

1. Share with the group an experience you had that you didn't want to end.
2. What is one thing you have experienced as a Christian that you wish would never end?

DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

"It is easy to have hope when everything is going my way. I remember when our family was walking through a valley – Linda's mom had a disease that eventually took her life – it was a long battle – Linda told me – how about taught me – about hope – she was traveling home to our house after visiting with her mom – it was a 2 hour drive home – filled with tears and songs of praise – she said – I decided to trust him anyway even though I knew that all he had to do was think a thought – and her disease could go away – but that never happened – but hope still remained – it didn't come quickly – but it did show up"

Read Acts 5:40-43 and 7:54-8:3 and then answer the following questions:

3. The Apostles and Stephen followed Jesus. They taught his word and spoke out for the hope they had in Jesus. What do you place your hope in? Give some examples.
4. Stephen and the Apostles still suffered terrible things in their lives even though they were Christ followers. Some examples included beatings, imprisonment and death. Are there things in your life or the lives of others that they or you are suffering through? What would some of these things be?
5. What attitude and acts would help you through this time? How could you share this with a believing friend? How could you share with a friend that is a nonbeliever?

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Peter’s faith was not based on how good his life was – or how fair his life was – his faith and his hope could not even be explained very well – but Peter had seen the greatest human being ever – and really bad things happened to him – terrible things happened to him – that made no sense to Peter at all – in fact I think Peter would have said – at that moment – when Jesus died – I lost all hope – all of it was gone. Then I saw him – he came back to life. I can’t explain all that happens in the world – and at times it does seem that life is not fair and that God could have done something – I am still going to put my faith in him.”

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 and 6-9 and then answer the following questions:

6. From verses 3 and 4 what do we know Jesus has done for us? According to these verses what is our response?
7. What do we learn about trials or suffering from verse 7? What do you think it means that these situations prove the genuineness of your faith? What would that look like? How does reading the Bible or knowing scripture help you be genuine in your faith?
8. According to verse 8, our response to trials should be what? If God brings you out of your trials we praise him. When we are in trials we praise him and are thankful that even if our situation doesn’t change in the end we have the best solution in spending forever with Christ. Do you struggle with the idea that God may not take away your struggle? Why?
9. Does knowing that you will spend eternity with Jesus help you during trials? Why or why not?

ADDITIONAL STUDY

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- 1 Corinthians 13:13
- Romans 8:24
- Romans 15:13
- Colossians 1:27

NEXT STEPS

9. What is one area where you personally need to remember the hope that Jesus gives? Based on this lesson, how will you believe, think and live differently?

10. How could you encourage someone you know who needs hope?

PRAYER

1. After sharing your next steps, determine who you will pray for throughout the week.
2. Pray for God to reveal someone who needs to hear a message of hope.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- MILLARD - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- FREMONT - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- OMAHA - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.