

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 20 minutes

1. How does discouragement kill or destroy our hope? When have you personally experienced the destructive power of discouragement? As we understand the hope and confidence we have in the gospel, how does our perspective of circumstances and discouragement change?
2. Pastor Ty mentioned three things that “Hope Is Not.” What were those? Why does hope often get confused with these three things? In what ways do we need to change our thinking about hope to understand that the foundation of all hope is in Christ?
3. Pastor Ty said, “Thriving people commit to things that produce inner strength and hope.” What are the key habits in the Christian life that produce inner strength and hope? In which of these habits do you most desire to grow? Share them with your *Growth Group* and ask them to help you grow in these habits.

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise God that in Jesus we have forgiveness of sins, new life, and victory over death. Thank Him for the inner strength and hope that is available in Christ. Ask God to strengthen you daily with both hope and confidence in the Gospel.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Look below for ideas on how to pray together.

Ideas For Praying Together as a *Growth Group*

- If you are new at praying aloud in a group, please feel comfortable praying silently.
- Prayer is simply a conversation with God; so don't feel intimidated by how others pray.
- Don't spend all your time sharing prayer requests. Spend the majority of the time praying together as a group.

EASTER SUNDAY *Unleashing Hope*

The Hope of the Resurrection

Mark 16:1-6

- We celebrate Jesus today because He gives us _____!
- Thriving people commit to things that _____ inner strength and hope.
- The greatest _____ you and I can give anyone is hope.

What Hope Does That Nothing Else Can Do

- Hope _____. Hope releases you from your past.
- Hope _____. Hope helps you bounce back.
- Hope _____. Hope sets you free to dream.
- Hope _____. Hope makes the world a better place.

What Hope Is Not

- Hope is not some unreliable _____.
- Hope is not _____ thinking or blind optimism.
- Hope is not an _____ luxury.
- _____ kills hope.

Sunday, April 5, 2015

South Shores Church

(949) 496-9331

Pastor Ty Guy

www.southshores.org

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of April 6-11

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, briefly introduce yourselves – Share your name; when you came to *South Shores Church*; where you live; if married, how long you have been married; and if you have children, share their names and ages.
2. Take a few minutes as a group to look over the *Growth Group Covenant*. (Your leader will have them at your first meeting). This helps everyone know what to expect.
3. Why are some people more effective than others? Why do some people enjoy life while others seem only to endure life? Describe when you have felt great enjoyment in your own life. What were the reasons for that enjoyment?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 35 minutes

1. Read Mark 16:1-7. The followers of Christ were deeply discouraged by His crucifixion. What event transformed them from discouragement to hope? What hope did this event provide? How does this event still provide hope for us today?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. How pivotal is the death and resurrection of Jesus to the Christian faith? What key pieces of evidence does Paul offer for the resurrection of Jesus? How was this evidence vital to building confidence and hope in the early followers of Christ and energizing them to take the gospel to the far corners of the world?
3. Read Romans 15:13 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16. How is God the God of "Hope"? What does God promise that provides hope for each one of us? How is the hope offered by God different than any other kind of hope we might have?
4. Pastor Ty said, "Hope motivates. Hope helps us bounce back from the past." He then mentioned several biblical characters that faced hopeless circumstances but with God's hope they bounced back. Which biblical character is your favorite "comeback" story? Why?
5. Read Romans 5:4-5. What do we learn here about the importance of hope to the development of Christian character? What is the Apostle Paul saying here that is both the source and sustaining force behind our hope? What can you do to intentionally build hope into your life?