

Christmas Gifts: Hope

Change things up tonight and start with prayer, but before you do ask this question of the group:

What is your greatest hope? What are you hoping in God for the most? Have each person take time to answer and pray for that issue immediately. If you don't get past this step, that is OK!

Freud believes the pursuit of pleasure motivated people, Adler believed it was power. Frankl found that it was purpose. What is your purpose, and why is it important to you? If you don't know what your purpose is, what do you think it might be? How are you trying to discover it?

According to Frankl, The difference between those who survived and those who perished was hope. What drives hope in a human being? What drives hope in you?

Discuss life under Rome

READ: Matthew 5:38-42, Matthew 2:16-18

How would you respond to living in these conditions?

READ: Genesis 12:2-3, Micah 5:1-6

How would these promises from God give you hope to keep going?

After his wife died, Pastor Arthur Gossip said:

"You people in the sunshine may believe the faith, but we in the shadow must believe it. We have nothing else."

-Arthur Gossip

What did he mean?

Cultivating Hope

What does faith have to do with hope?

This morning Kelly said that "Living a life of faith is one in which we make the choice to believe despite the circumstances we might face. Living a life of faith means that we honestly look at our problems and then choose to see that God is bigger."

Is this faith or just denial? What is the difference?

Perseverance READ: James 1:12

When have you persevered through a difficult trial in your life? (Even if you're in one now) Where did you get the strength to continue?

Courage READ: Joshua 1:9

Have you ever linked courage and hope? Why does it take courage to have hope?

What if we are supposed to be Christmas gifts to someone else?

What if you possess the hope that the world needs to see?

For us to be the people God has called us to be, we have to be filled with Him, filled with His love, His joy, His Spirit, filled with His hope. Take time to read this verse and then pray that God would do this work in us.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

-Romans 15:13