

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

ADVENT: HOPE - 12/01/2024

COMMUNION

- At some point during your gathering, take communion together.
- Read a Scripture about hope in Christ or use Colossians 1:27
- spend a moment in silence to experience the presence of Christ

REVIEW

- Two important ideas from the opening lines of Genesis. One, the days ends with light (there was evening and there was day). Two, light was created before the sun and stars
- Dawn, the time when light appears before the sun does, is often an image of hope in the Bible. It is like the promises of God (the promise comes first, then God fulfills it later)
- Isaiah describes those without hope as “they have no dawn.”
- Peter says we have a living hope because our hope is based on a person who is alive (Jesus)
- Paul tells Titus that we have blessed hope – tying the future resurrection hope to the original creation that God blessed. We are waiting for the full blessing of God
- It is the waiting that makes hope hard
- patience is the spirit’s silent strength to wait until it has what it hopes for" - Lewis Smedes
- God meets us in our darkest moments; in our brokenness (Ps 88). His light shines in the darkness. John 8:12 - those who follow Jesus will not walk in darkness

DISCUSSION

1. How has your time been since our last gathering? How did you see God at work in you or around you?

Read: 1 Peter 1:3, Titus 2:13

2. What stood out to you from this week’s teaching?
3. Hope by definition is a future expectation. Which means we must wait. This is magnified because we are often dependent on God’s timing and ways, which are often different from ours. How do you feel about waiting?
4. What are you hoping for in this season?
5. Where has your hope been unmet? Where have you felt disappointment?
6. Where do you need help from the Spirit to hope with greater faith?