

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: Hebrews 11:1, Ps 147:10-11

December 9, 2018

Overview

Where do you put your hope? Often we don't recognize hope in our lives until we feel hopeless. You might feel completely hopeless in your marriage. You have tried the conferences. Reading marriage books. Going to counseling. You don't see any signs of things changing. You begin to think the kids might be better off with mom and dad separated than together. You feel hopeless.

Maybe it is in your finances. You have been laid off or had an unexpected expense. You try so hard to keep everything in order but nothing adds up and you begin to fall short. All the financial advice classes have not changed the bottom line in your checking account. If only that medical expense hadn't come along. Your car hadn't broken down. Your company hadn't had to lay off an entire department. You begin to feel hopeless.

Maybe it is for that wayward child. You have been praying for years for them to come to know Jesus. Through all the prayers and all the tears they still don't want a relationship with God. You have tried everything. It has put a strain on your relationship. You don't know what else to say or even how to handle the relationship. You begin to feel hopeless.

There are numerous areas I can write about in which you can feel hopeless. It can be that diagnosis you never expected to hear. It can be when your singleness turns to loneliness. When my wife and I first were married we dealt with unexplained infertility for many years. For a long time we thought we would never have kids. It tore at our hearts and made us feel hopeless.

The feeling of hopelessness makes you question where you place your hope. Sometimes the most well intended Christians can say the unintended cruelest comments to someone who feels hopeless. Being Captain Obvious to the hurting isn't the best. Sometimes you need to show the love of Jesus to the hopeless, instead of just preaching the love of Jesus. A gentle touch, a warm hug, word of encouragement... Love someone to the hope in Jesus, don't just point the way.

Bible Study: Hebrews 11:1, Ps. 147:10-11

1. Read Hebrews 11:1. What is the relationship between faith and hope?
2. Read Ps. 147:10-11. In the ancient world the strength of a kingdom was determined by the size of the army. People put their hope in warriors and horses. What do people put their hope in today?
3. In what ways can you show hope to those who feel hopeless?

4. Discuss a time when you felt hopeless. How did it impact your faith? What does it take to bring you out of a feeling of hopelessness?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. How can an eternal perspective help you maintain hope during hardship?