

The God of Hope

John 12 & Romans 15:13

Sermon Discussion Questions

April 9, 2017

1. This week Pastor Jim began his message by addressing the subject of “hopelessness.” He defined it as a belief that the future will not be better than the present and may in fact be worse. Have you ever experienced that? Or do you know of someone who has? If you answered yes and are open to it, share with group some of the circumstances and how it felt to experience hopelessness.
2. In John 12:23-27, we get to hear from Jesus himself about how His heart was troubled. That same use of troubled shows up when He speaks of Judas betraying Him, when He’s in the Garden of Gethsemane and what He speaks of in John 16:33. What were some other words Pastor Jim used to explain what “troubled” meant in this instance?
3. We serve a God and Savior who knows pain and suffering, who has felt the weight of hopelessness. The question is, as our example, how does He handle it? Read John 12:27-28 and discuss what Jesus’ response is.
4. As Jesus faces the waves of hopelessness He chooses to trust God, His plan and His character. How does God respond to this? Read John 12:28-32 and discuss how God responds to Jesus’ choice. Has this ever happened to you? Share an experience in which you’ve chosen trust in the face of despair, how did God show up?
5. Romans 15:13 states that God is the God of hope, that we see this through peace and joy that He provides as we trust in Him and His character, His plan. Do you find this easy to accept? Why or why not? Do you think most people view God in this way? Why or why not?
6. Pastor Jim stated that “the core of God’s character is that He is a compassionate and gracious God.” He is abounding in love and faithfulness, but this is not easy to see in the midst of the storm. It often doesn’t seem possible to trust God like this, but that’s why it’s a work of the Holy Spirit. It is not in our own strength. As you close your time together, take a moment to:
 - Share an area of your life in which you may be bordering on feeling hopeless
 - Share if there is a person or family in your life experiencing hopelessness
 - Read Psalm 16 together and pray for each other and for those who God brought to mind.