

Discussion Guide

Read and reflect on the prayer for the series, then someone open the small group gathering using this prayer:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

1. Where are you at in the area of hopefulness? How hopeful are you of your own personal future? How hopeful are you about the future of our society? ... the world?
2. What did you want to be growing up as a kid and did those plans change? If they did change, what changed them and how did you handle those changes?
3. How hopeful were you growing up? What about your peers, how hopeful were they? Are there generational difference when it comes to ones' outlook on life? Has your outlook on life changed and if so what changed it?
4. The Pastor made this statement: "There will be a day when things will be different and what is so terribly wrong today will be fixed." What is wrong with today that you look forward to being "fixed?" What are you're tired of? ?

Make a list of the things your group is tired of and once the pandemic is over plan on throwing a party to celebrate the end to the things on your list!

Example: If it's the wearing of masks consider holding a mask burning ceremony.

5. How important is hope in a person's life? What does it do for us? Does hope disappoint or set a person up for disappointment as the Romans believed.
6. What future do you imagine for yourself and what steps are you taking or planning to take in order to experience the future you are imaging?
7. Share a time when you had a plan for your future and that plan was disrupted. What disrupted it? How did it affect your plans? What obstacles did you face? How did you handle those obstacles? And what was the end result?
8. Share a time when you encountered an obstacle that disrupted your plans and that turned out to be a good thing in your life.
9. What do people look to in order to have hope? Take each thing you identify and analyze it. What is its strength and what is its weakness?

10. As you listened to what Romans believed, how they viewed life, what they valued most, and looked to for hope, what similarities did you note between their culture and our own?
11. How can Christian hope better shape a person's life as opposed to the things people look to for hope?
12. Do you have a question about the message or an insight about hope that you would like to share? If so, share it!

End your discussion by having each person complete this sentence... read it and let people spend a minute or two so they can really think about it. Share your greatest hope for the future of our society or the world.

“There will be a day when.....”