

Series: Humble King	Reference: Various Passages	Title: Hope	Date: 12.2.18
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Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2018/19

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

1. **FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & it's members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
2. **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
4. **MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
5. **LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
6. **CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a *'House of Prayer for all Nations'* (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
7. **GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

Study Questions

1. Begin by reading aloud Philippians 2:1-11, then Luke 1:31-33, prayerfully meditating on these verses together. After the reading & a moment of silent prayer has passed, ask if anyone has an insight from these verses they'd like to share.
 1. Reiterate, Jesus comes in humility - humility births hope.
2. Do you see our society as becoming more anxious, depressive & sad - in short hopeless? Are there other descriptors you'd use?
 1. What brings anxiety & worry into the lives of people?
 2. How do people tend to deal with it? Is there a process, or do they just live in it until it passes? Does their process work?
 3. Do you perceive a desire to be free of anxiety & worry?
3. Where do you feel like you fall in the following three categories...
 1. Living in the hope of Jesus
 2. Saying I hope in Jesus, but truly trusting in my Self
 3. Living hopeless
4. How do we live a balance of concern for issues, while also living in the freedom & joy of God's grace (living in hope)? What are some very practical things we can do to foster & build a hopeful life?
 1. Think in terms of spiritual practices, boundaries, and the focus of our attention.
 2. For instance, we said: "*Hope's a virtue. Like courage, trust, restraint, perseverance, faith & justice, hope's a muscle we work & develop. Hope must be cognitively engaged & practiced. We must place our sights on that which is hopeful, not the hopeless.*" How do we do this?
5. Read aloud Matthew 26:47-56 discussing this chapter & what it means in light of Christ's Humility, His kingdom & Hope.
6. Discuss how far the Father's love will go for us...how do we see & know that? Think of the moment of separation the Son experienced with the Father on the cross - reference Mark 15:33-39 for this.
 1. How is sin slavery & why is Hell important? Why did Jesus need to go to this length? Consider the Holiness of God in this conversation.
 2. Consider Isaiah 59:2/Ps 16:11/James 1:17, maybe other verses?
 3. We said: *Sin is a pseudo-savior (whatever we worship other than Jesus), which enslaves us with guilt (if we fail to attain them) or anger (if someone blocks them from us), or fear (if we are threatened), or drivenness (since we feel we must have them to survive & thrive) - do you see this as true? How?*
7. FINAL QUESTION: Do you feel hopeful in light of Jesus love & work for you?? Why or why not?

8. If time allows, discuss this paragraph from the sermon: *The universal religion of humankind is: We develop a good record & give it to God, then he owes us. The Gospel is: God develops a good record & gives it to us, then we owe him (Rom. 1:17). In short, to say a good person, not just Christians, can find God is to say good works are enough to find God. In other words, the humanistic view is, good people can find God, bad people can't. But if anyone's honest, everyone falls short - Christians are simply honest & self-aware. And the Christian view is much more hopeful than is the humanistic, since the humanistic view neither has retribution for all evil in the world, nor a hopeful path to peace & holiness. Both are exclusive views if everyone is gut-wrenchingly honest - but the Christian view is much less exclusive given the open invitation & hope we have in a very personal down-to-earth relational connection we can have with God the Father, through Christ the Son!*

1. What are your thoughts on the differences between the *True Gospel* as compared to *The Universal Religion of the World*