

Saturday & Sunday, March 31 & April 1, 2018 - "Hope Restored Week 1: 360 Perspective (Psalm 42)" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Psalm 42, Proverbs 13:12

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We can be conditioned to say the right things BUT it can lost its significance and substance
- We're called to hear the Easter story like it's the first time
- The promise power of God in our lives that we can experience HOPE & JOY regardless of circumstance
- We will go through seasons of difficulty
  - Proverbs 13:12...a deep longing/dream/perception of what should happen → Heart Sickness
  - Sometimes it's big life altering things and other times it is little things that chip away at hope
- There are 3 responses to hopelessness
  - Denial
  - Emotional shut down (after so much disappointment it's better to not want anything)
  - **360 PERSPECTIVE** (no matter the circumstance we can have hope)
- At Grace we want to be honest and authentic about who we are and how we struggle
  - Lament is a real thing/spiritual discipline
  - Heart sickness is NOT a sign of weakness or spiritual immaturity
  - Every hero of faith went through difficulties and struggled with having the right attitude in their situation
- Psalm 42
  - Difficult time in David's life: His son turned on him and David was on the run from being killed by his son
  - David would have expected God to protect his throne
  - Where are you God?
    - When hope is deferred, He feels far away
    - My soul thirsts for God (David meant his entire being when he said soul)
- It starts with an inner dialogue (what am I feeling/what is going on) → Life our eyes from our circumstance to God→ 360 Perspective
  - Remembering all that God has done restores our hope
  - 3 TIMES David reminds himself that he needs to hope in God
  - "Anytime we put out hope on anything other than God, we will be wanting"
- Hesed: God's steadfast love for us
  - Even in difficulty we know this
  - David's story doesn't get better...it actually gets worse
  - Tension of living in difficulty but KNOWING that we were created in love
- The resurrection informs of GOD's HESED
  - We can look back at what Jesus did (allowed us to be in relationship with God)
  - We can look forward because of the resurrection
  - The 360 perspective allows us to find hope in God even in the midst of difficult circumstances

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you tended to respond to hopelessness in the past? What has God taught you?
2. Describe a time or a season when you were dealing with some heart sickness?
3. Have you had a time when you were asking "Where are You God"? What was it like? How did God come to reveal himself to you?
4. What have you learned about living in difficulty but knowing that God's Hesed means hope can be found in Him?
5. What is God calling you to remember about who is He is and what He had done?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Matthew 28 Tues: Mark 16 Wed: Luke 24 Thurs: John 20 Fri: John 21

Worship Set from this weekend:

"Let Revival Come (Revive Me) - People & Songs "Forever" - Kari Jobe "Alive" - Hillsong Y&F "In Jesus Name" - Israel Houghton "Praises (Be Lifted Up)" - Bethel