

GENESIS STUDY QUESTIONS

September 27, 2009

The Hope of God: Ecclesiastes 9:4, Proverbs 23:17-19

LEADER PREPARATION

Question to be pondered: *How do I experience the Hope of God when I feel hopeless?*

The Big Idea: *God has promised hope to all believers. However, we must seek it out by pursuing God's promises.*

Leaders: *This study is designed to help group members compare their definition of hope with God's definition of hope. Encourage your members to explore whether they have hope in God's promises, or whether or not they have become apathetic. Often times, this apathy comes from frustration after seeking God. However, God has promised that when we continue to seek Him and His wisdom, we will find hope.*

Getting Started

If you had one wish, what would it be?

Define hope in your own words.

Digging Deeper

Read Ecclesiastes 9:4. What do you believe the author was saying when he wrote this?

How could you apply this to your own life?

Now read Proverbs 23:17-19. Who is he talking about? Does it include you?

The answer is in verse 17, whoever is "continuing in the fear of the Lord."

In 23:19, what is the author's advice for those who fear the Lord?

Listen, be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

Application

How does your definition of hope differ from God's definition of hope?

Read Proverbs 24:14. According to this verse, how do you find hope?

By seeking after wisdom, you will find hope! If you become wise in the promises of God, you will find hope!

James 1:5 says,

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

CHALLENGE

The Hope Experience begins on Sunday. As a church, we are challenging one another to pursue Hope by making a commitment during the 7 weeks of The Hope Experience:

1. I will read the Hope Experience readings every day
2. I will get in an Acts 2 Community—or start my own
3. I will attend the weekly church services
4. I will serve the community through Hope projects
5. I will tell others about what God is doing in my life