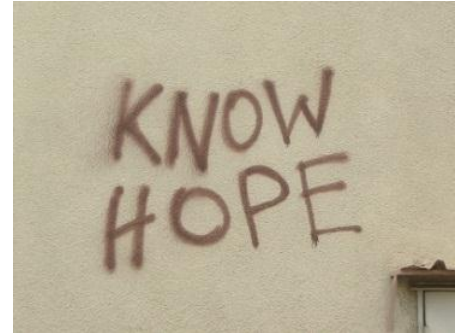


DISCUSSION GUIDE [January 28-29, 2012] ~ Hope that Overcame!



Discussion Opener

1. What makes a person's testimony seem credible or incredible?
2. What testimony touched you the most? Why?

Message Thoughts

I am reminded of the great Hymn, He Lives!

"I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and He talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care, and tho my heart grows weary I never will despair; I know that He is leading Thro' all the stormy blast, the day of His appearing will come at last."

Amen! We serve a risen Savior! We serve the one who is our Hope! Praise God for all the ways He has helped us to find Hope to Overcome! When you put your faith in Him and trust Him, HE will help us all to overcome.

Discussion

1. How can we truly "Know Hope"?
2. In what ways has God helped you overcome and find hope? What is your testimony?
3. How does sharing what God has done and is doing in our lives helpful to those around us?
4. Read 1 John 5:1-5
 - a. Who overcomes the world?
 - b. How can we overcome the world?
 - c. What does it mean to overcome the world?
 - d. How have you overcome the world?
5. John 16:33 – "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
 - a. What trouble do we have here in the world as followers of Christ?
 - b. How does the fact that Jesus has overcome the world encourage you?
 - c. What grief, sorrow or struggle do you still need to entrust to God?
6. How have the storms and trials of your life helped you to grow?
7. In what ways can you be an ambassador of hope to the world around you...this year...this week...tomorrow?

Prayer

Spend time as a group this week praising God for the ways he has helped each person overcome and find hope. Pray for those who still need to discover and/or rediscover that hope – those people in your group and connected to your group who are saying... "God, I have put my faith in your Son to get me through... help me to overcome!"