

Growth Group Homework and Discussion Questions

For the Week of May 2-8, 2010
"Is There Any Hope?"

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

Read Romans 5:1-11. What does this passage say about hope? What is the basis for our hope? How is hope produced? What is the connection between hope and rejoicing?

Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: What one thing do you want your obituary to say about you? Why?

Digging Deeper: Read Psalm 42.

This psalm consists of a lament (verses 1-4) followed by a statement of hope (verse 5) and a second lament (verses 6-10) followed by a second statement of hope (verse 11).

- What symptoms of depression (a "downcast soul") did the psalmist report experiencing?
- Why is a panting deer a good metaphor for depression?
- How could listening to a waterfall reinforce a depressed or melancholy state of emotions?
- What things was the psalmist depressed about?
- What was the psalmist's hope for the future?
- How did he cope in the darkness of the nighttime?

Living It:

1. In what ways has your relationship with Jesus made a difference in how you handle injustice, oppression, and times of depression?
2. What did you learn from your homework or Pastor Larry's message that you are going to put into practice when life seems unjust, wicked, or full of despair?
3. What worship song or hymn have you found to be uplifting during a difficult time in your life? Why?