

surprised by

hope

WEEK 4 - SURPRISED BY HOPE

OVERVIEW

As we prepare for Weekend of Service, in which we will attempt to surprise our community with hope, it is important for us to reflect once more on the joyful and surprising status we have as those who have been reconciled with God. Our message is one of hope and delight, knowing we have all received undeserved mercy, and knowing that same open door of grace is open for all of our friends and neighbors. Let's go into our world and declare with surprising joy that our separation from God has come to an end!

So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Romans 5:11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Can you articulate the hope that you have? How do you feel about sharing your faith?
2. Barry gave us some practical tools to help us *be ready to explain our hope as believers*. Read the passage for each section, then using one or two questions as a guide, share your personal story of hope with your group. It's okay if you're not sure what to say - let your group help you walk through how to answer the questions.

Ephesians 2:1-3

- How did you used to live as the master of your own universe?
- What lies from the Evil One did you believe about yourself?
- In what ways were you enslaved to your own passions and desires?
- How were you living exiled from the presence of God?

Ephesians 2:4-7

- How have you come alive because of Christ?
- How has your vantage point on the world changed now that you're seated with Jesus?
- How is your transformed life an example of the grace and kindness of God?

Ephesians 2:8-10

- What has changed in your identity now that you understand how God sees you (as his masterpiece)?
- What are the "good things" he has given you to do? What are you discovering about your purpose/calling/destiny?

RESOURCES

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