

RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Where do you put your hope?
2. What are you expecting in your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Love is not just an idea; it is action. The third action listed in 1 Corinthians 13 is that love “always hopes” (NIV) or “hopes all things” (ESV). It’s nice to know that love is hopeful, but what exactly does this mean? Used 32 times in the New Testament, the word hope expresses more than a wish or desire, but a confident belief in the unseen. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Faith, hope, and love are often intimately connected in Scripture.

In Colossians 1:4-5 we find the same combination of faith, hope, and love: “We heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven”. Just as God is called “love” (1 John 4:8), Jesus is called our “hope” (1 Timothy 1:1). Hope not only concerns our belief in Christ but describes who He is to us. The hope within us is Christ Himself. If He lives within us, His hope will be seen in how we treat others. Living with such an attitude reflects the way of Christ, leads to holy living, and brings glory to the heavenly Father (Matthew 5:17).

Since God never gives up hope on us, we cannot give up hope on those with whom we work. Some of us have experienced hope imparted to us by parent, teacher, coach, friend, relative or employer, someone who would not give up on us. Their hopes and beliefs for us were both comforting and motivating. What may be impossible for you is possible for God, and prayer powerfully releases that possibility for you. Hope is confident expectation that buoys our prayer life, our attitude, and our treatment of others.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What are your hopes for the individuals with whom you work?
- Read Micah 7:7. Is this true for you? Do you watch and wait for the Lord, or do you just run ahead of where He is?
- In Isaiah 40:28-30, we are reminded of how God will not grow weary or tire. Are you putting your hope in things that will grow weary and tired?
- Discuss how you have seen God, in your own life, renew your strength because you have put your hope in Him. Why do you think many people do not have hope?

ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next seven days.
2. Take action this week to write down ways you see God on display in your life.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)