

Group Questions- *Hope in Transition*

07/02/23 – Pastor Sheila

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- If you were moving to a new city and had the choice to pack up all you currently own and take it with you, or start over with all new stuff, which would you choose?
- What does the word “change” make you think or feel?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What’s something from this week’s teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- **READ:** Romans 5:3-5, inserting the word “transitions” for “problems and trials”.
- Recall a transition you have faced.
 - How did you develop endurance/patience through that transition?
 - How did that lead to strength of character? What character traits?
 - How did that strengthen your confident hope of salvation, that God was able to do what he promised to do?
- Pastor Sheila said, “Transition is the doorway to hope. Transition is necessary for us to go from where we are now to where God wants us to be.”
 - How was the transition you recalled a doorway to hope? How did God use it to make you who you are today?
- Romans 5:5 gives the basis for a hope that does not disappoint. What role does God’s love for us play in having hope in transition?
- Why can we “rejoice” when we face transition?

Application Questions:

- **Read:** Romans 4:17b
 - Do you believe what Abraham believed about God? Not just know it--do you believe it?
 - Where is an area of your life that you want to ask God to create a new thing out of nothing?
- Think of a transition you’re currently facing.
 - What if you view this transition as an opportunity for God to create a new thing, rather than dreading and resisting the change?
 - Pray and ask God to use this transition to expand the boundaries of your faith.

TITLE: Hope in Transition
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Transition is the doorway to hope

Romans 5:3-5 - We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. (NLT)

Confident hope is not based on what we are hoping for, but who we are hoping in.

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. (NLT)

Transition expands the boundaries of our faith

Romans 5:1-3 - Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials... (NLT)

What did Christ do for us?

- Made right in God’s sight - v. 1

- Gave us peace with God - v. 1
- Brought us into this place of undeserved privilege - v. 2
- God dearly loves us - v. 5
- Gave us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love - v. 5

What God wants for you:

- He wants you to live an abundant life with him (John 10:10)
- He wants to be your place of refuge (Psalm 46:1)
- He wants you to live a life of love and follow the example of Christ (Ephesians 5:2)
- He wants you to enjoy healthy relationships with each other (Philippians 2:2)
- He wants to give you the desire and power to do what pleases him (Philippians 2:13)
- He wants you to shine his light in the darkness (Philippians 2:15)
- He wants to make his church stronger (and he doesn't need me to do it)! (Ephesians 4:16)

Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians