

discussion guide for April 8th

"How to Hope Again"

Luke 24:13-32 (p. 1387-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Where there is hope, there is life! Launch the discussion today with one or two of the following:

- You may have heard the phrase, "Where there is life, there is hope," but human hope can take a beating at the hand of life's events. List life experiences that tend to diminish, damage, or even destroy hope in the human spirit.
- Describe the human condition of hopelessness. What kind of symptoms does it present? What escapes mechanisms do people utilize?
- What happens when you place great expectation on a person, job, relationship, pursuit, position, or possession that doesn't materialize? Share a personal time of disillusionment with the table group if you are comfortable doing so.

*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

It there is no resurrection; life leads to a hopeless end. But if Jesus is alive, your life can be lived with an endless hope. The key is to believe then live what you believe! How is your hope? Is it present, or in the lost and found??

1. Hope is Lost in Disappointment and Despair
Read Lk. 24:17-24, (p. 1387-88, DSB*).
[Espresso: Cleopas lost hope in the death of expectation!]
 - How does vs. 17 describe the disciple's demeanor?
 - Based on vs.1-24, why were the disciples disillusioned?
 - Were the disciples incorrect in their analysis? Why?
 - What happens when hope is put on a false premise?
 - Have you ever lost hope in something or someone?
2. Hope is Found in the Word of God
Read Luke 24:25-27, 32, (p. 1388, DSB*).
[Espresso: Scripture confirms the hope of resurrection.]
 - What did Jesus do to help these two find hope?
 - What affect did the scriptures Jesus shared have on the disciples? (See verse 32)
 - How can you avail yourself of the hope of Scripture? How does vs.25 apply to believers now?
3. Hope is Found in the Presence of Christ
Read Luke 24:28-32, (p. 1388, DSB*).
[Espresso: Jesus' presence confirms and increases hope.]
 - Why did Jesus stay with the disciples?
 - When did they realize who He was?
 - Relate times in your life when you realized the presence of Christ. How did this affect hope?

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Just like the two disciples, your eyes can be opened to the truth that Jesus lives. Forgiveness for failures is possible because He's alive! Power over addictions is possible because He's alive! A new direction for life is possible because He's alive! Eternal life is assured because He's alive! Christ brings an abundant supply of hope to those who find and follow Him together!

And for those who have found Christ, hope should be as evident as a well-groomed hairstyle. If the people around you don't notice, perhaps it is time to take a walk on the road to Emmaus. Rediscover the truth of God's Word, and revisit the presence of God's Son. In Christ, hope is available in abundance.

How will you boldly share God's hope with those in your circles of influence this week?

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray that hope will be strong and evident in you this week to the point that others will ask for a reason for the hope that shines in you!
- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving someone a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the "*Savor*" section this week in your personal daily devotionals to reinforce the commonground experience. Sign up for the "The Daily Cup" e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

Last Sunday you observed the renewal of hope in the disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. These passages and questions should help reinforce the hope that is in you.

Monday, April 9: Read 1 Peter 1:3-5, (p. 1637-DSB*).

Have you been given "a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"? How does that change the way you react to the hard things in life?

Tuesday, April 10: Read Romans 8:38-39, (p. 1498-DSB*).

Did Paul miss an item on the list that could separate you from the love of God? If you really believed that nothing will interfere with the love or promises of God, would that affect how you live?

Wednesday, April 11: Read Hebrews 6:16-20, (p. 1616-DSB*).

Why is hope like an anchor for the soul? Why can you be absolutely sure God will do what He said? How is Jesus' resurrection another proof for our hope? How can you be encouraged in your hope today?

Thursday, April 12: Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, (p.

1537-DSB*), What "down" experiences are mentioned in these verses? Each "down" experience is countered with a "but not." Are you living in the down positions of life, or in the "but not" positions? How's your hope?

Friday, April 13: Read John 14:27, (p. 1419-DSB*).

What has Jesus left those who find and follow Him? Are you experiencing the peace of God? If not, why not? Why is peace and hope tied together?

**DSB" = "Discovery Study Bibles" available in common ground.

**Daily devotionals available via "The Daily Cup" e-mails. To subscribe: herb@hbcaustin.org.