



struggles

Small Group Questions Week 1

1. What is hope? What does our society tell us that we should put our hope in? What is the Biblical meaning of the word hope? How is this different from how most people define hope? Read Romans 15:13. According to this verse, where does hope for a Christian come from?
Answer – The typical definition of the word hope is a desire that something we would like to see happen happens. The Greek word used in the Bible that is translated hope in English is: An earnest expectation that what God has said and promised, he will cause to happen. The difference is that the normal word has a “maybe” attached to it while the Biblical word means it will definitely happen since God is involved.
2. Read the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18:16-40. Then read 1 Kings 19:1-5. In light of what God did in and through Elijah in chapter 18, why do you think Elijah ran away from Jezebel when she threatened him? What can we learn from this?
Answer—Whereas Elijah obviously had his trust in God to win the showdown with the prophets of Baal, he took his eyes off of God and stopped trusting him when it came to the threat that Ahab and Jezebel made toward him. We should learn two things from this story: 1. That sometime after a tremendous spiritual victory there is a tendency to let down and stop trusting in God when the next problem comes up. 2. We must be diligent to trust God to handle everything in our lives, not just the “big” things.
3. According to Pastor Rick in his message, what 4 things did Elijah suffer from when he stopped trusting in God? Of these, which one do you struggle with most often?
Answer– 1. Fear of death, 2. Loneliness, 3. Exhaustion, and 4. Self-pity
4. Read Hebrews 6:17-19. What characteristics about God should cause us to never lose hope? What do you think it means for “hope to be an anchor for our soul”? What could you do to help you remember these characteristics when you feel like there is no hope?
5. Read John 16:33. Jesus said that he had peace. This is in spite of the fact that he knew exactly everything he was about to go through on his way to dying on the cross. How is that possible, what was his peace based on? Do you think it is possible for us to experience this type of peace?