

studies from
EPHESIANS

~Life Group Questions~
Walk in Hope
Ephesians 4:1

1. Is there anything that particularly caught your attention, confused or challenged you as a result of hearing Sunday's sermon?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8 & 15 and list the different ways we are to walk as Christians (the word 'walk' is used by Paul to denote how we live our lives).

3. Re-read 5:1 in light of the last phrase of verse 4; "just as you were also called in one hope of your calling." Discuss what it might look like to have a "hopeful walk."

If someone were to observe how you "walked" out your Christian life do you feel they would describe your walk as being hopeful?

If so, what would they say the object of your hope is?

4. Discuss the following definition of idolatry.

Making a good thing the ultimate thing?

5. Do you agree or disagree with Pastor Kurt's assertion that we can determine the "ultimate things" in our lives by how we spend our free time and disposable income?
6. In reference to Luke 11:24-26, why is it necessary that we do more than merely remove the idols from our hearts?
7. What does Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-18 suggest as a cure for the malady of misplaced affections?
8. Read the account of how Simon the Priest and Anna the Prophetess encountered Jesus in Luke 2:25-38.

- a. In what ways are you inspired by their patient waiting?

9. As Simon held baby Jesus in his arms do you think Simon was filled with the “thrill of hope” we sing about in the Christmas carol Oh Holy Night?

a. Share a time that you experience the “thrill of hope” in your Christian journey.

10. Read Romans 5:3-5. If you had to choose between the options of overstatement or understatement regarding Paul’s assertion that “hope does not disappoint” which extreme would you fall to and why?

11. Pastor Kurt listed the following spiritual disciplines as tools God uses to “open the eyes of our hearts so that we might know what is the hope of our calling.” Which of these do you feel is one of your strengths? Which of these do you desire to grow in?

- Time Spent in God’s Word
- Time Spent in Prayer
- Time Spent in Worship
- Time Spent in Quiet
- Time Spent in Fellowship with Other Believers

12. Discuss the following Proverb.

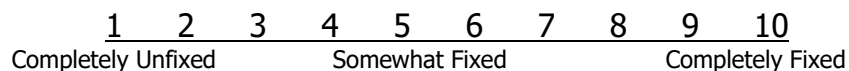
Proverbs 22:7

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.

a. In light of the conversation regarding indebtedness do you feel attending the upcoming Financial Peace University class at NAC would be beneficial to you or someone you know? What is preventing you from attending or inviting a friend?

13. 1 Peter 1:13 tells us to “prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

a. On the graph below plot where you feel the fixedness of your hope falls.



Close in prayer asking that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ would grant to you a spirit of wisdom in the revelation and knowledge of Him and that the eyes of your hearts might be enlightened to know just how amazing and wonderful and breathtaking and life-changing is the hope of our calling and that you would be given the grace to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, a walk of vibrant hope!