

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22, 2018 - "Hope Restored Week 4" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Ephesians 2:10

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- It is critical that we have hope and there are things/circumstances that try and rob us of hope
- Last week Gerald talked to us about seasons of Orientation = God is good and everything is cool, Disorientation = Where did God go, season of trial and hardship, and Re-orientation = praising God for his salvation, learning something new about God or following Him
- Seasons of reorientation/new orientation
 - All the heroes of the faith went through this
 - It shows us that God is up to something
- Moses' story
 - Called to play a part in the liberation of Israel from slavery
 - He spent years and years being prepared...FOR EXACTLY WHAT GOD HAD FOR HIM
 - God planned specific tasks/outcomes for each of us (Ephesians 2:10)
 - Based on our skills/talents/make-up God prepared good works for us
- 6 Essentials: SERVE
 - Living out Ephesians 2:10
 - We won't discover the good works God has for us sitting in our seats
 - God will make clear the good work he prepared...it's IMPOSSIBLE to do without God
- Paul actually thought he was going to die
 - Probably saying something like "Really God?", but he HAD TO learn the lesson and how to rely on God
 - Orientation → disorientation → Re-orientation → Ministry/good works God has prepared
- David
 - Good shepherd, anointed King, defeated Goliath...EVERYTHING PROSPERED (Orientation...God is good)
 - Saul tries to kill David (David spends 7-10 years on the run and hiding in caves) (Disorientation)
 - But God did it to SHAPE DAVID'S CHARACTER
 - "If you can't trust God in the hard times, you will never trust Him in the good times" - Doug Kempton
- Joseph
 - He had a cool dream about his dad and brothers bowing to him (orientation)
 - Brothers sold him into slavery/spent significant time in jail (disorientation)
 - God was preparing him for what he had called him to do
 - OFTEN we learn something about God in the times of disorientation that are necessary for our future ministry and good works
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - God of all comfort: God will comfort us if we turn to Him and invite him in, but we often look to everything else before God for comfort
 - Comfort God has shown us is fuel to ministry to others (we don't need to chase down the trial though!)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God used a season of disorientation and/or reorientation to prepare you for future good works?
2. Do you know which season you are in now? (Orientation, disorientation, reorientation) What is God showing you?
3. What is something that you learned or came to believe about God that you couldn't have figured out apart from trial/hardship?
4. How is God calling you to look to him for comfort? Why is it sometimes hard to go to God first?
5. How is God shaping your character right now? How do you think this will help you moving forward?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: 2 Thessalonians 1 Tues: 2 Thessalonians 2 Wed: 2 Thessalonians 3 Thurs: 1 Timothy 1 Fri: 1 Timothy 2

Worship Set from this weekend:

"In Jesus' Name" - Israel Houghton / "Mountaintops" - The Belonging Co. / "Made A Way" - Travis Greene / "Reckless Love" - Cory Asbury / "Glory to Glory" - Bethel Music"