



Alive in Hope

Week of December 13, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 4:15
and Isaiah 5:20

Everything looks different when we come alive in hope. The Bible paints a reality that our lives are broken and separated from God. The world sees nothing wrong with this broken existence and tries to build a substitute savior here on earth. God says we need a Savior to bring us out of the dark so he sent us Jesus. We have a need that only he can answer. Jesus came to save you now and forever. Not only does he save us for eternity; we can overcome the present challenges of this world in Jesus. Jesus brings us into a new life; a life of light and not darkness. When we choose to continue to live in the darkness after we've met Jesus, we deny ourselves and other people the chance to come alive in the hope of Jesus. It is time for all of us to come alive to a bigger life in God's love. It's time to start living the life Jesus has given you.

Pray

God, I no longer want to live in this brokenness and darkness; I want to be alive in the hope that you provide for me in Jesus. Give me the eyes to see and the voice to call darkness darkness and light, light. Empower me to step away from the darkness and into your light and help me come alive in the hope of your eternal love for me!

Share Your Experience This Week
#SevernRun

Getting Started

- When was the best Christmas you've ever had? What made it so wonderful?
- Share about a time when your perceptions of a situation were much different than what was really happening. Give some practical examples of some "things of the world" that we must give up to follow Jesus.

Listening Deeply

1. Why do you think Pastor Drew opened his message with the concept of perception versus reality? How does that relate to Jesus and being alive in hope?
2. What is the land of the shadow of death? Why do you think it is called this?
3. Describe why or how the world we live in is a fight between light and darkness.
4. Read Matthew 4:15. Why is Jesus the light? What does it mean, that Jesus is The Light?
5. What are some ways we stay in the darkness?
6. Share some scripture to help in those times when we find ourselves in the darkness.
7. Read Isaiah 5:20. Explain this passage and discuss its application to a lesson on living in darkness or alive in hope.
8. Describe how we can live with a new way of interpreting life based on God's love and not our brokenness. What does that look like in a practical application?
9. Pastor Drew calls us to embrace the light of heaven and live it in the coming year. What does that look like for you?

Living Wide in Jesus

As you celebrate Jesus in this season of Christmas, meditate on what his birth, life, and death means to you. How can you embrace the light that he gives? When will you share a life of hope with those who are hopeless. What are some ways you can deliberately live a bigger life in your faith? Use the space below to write out your thoughts about how you can believe big in 2016.