



Regift: Part 1

Small Group Questions: Reigniting Hope

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Read

Matthew 10:8; Luke 2:25–37; Psalm 42:11; Hebrews 6:18–19; Proverbs 18:21; Ephesians 4:29; and 1 Peter 3:15

Reflect

Hope is a powerful motivator. Without it, we tend not to survive long. Where we place our hope is a crucial decision. Jesus is the hope of the world—the greatest gift ever given, and his grace is meant to be passed on, to be regifted to others. In Luke 2, a devout man in Jerusalem named Simeon eagerly awaits the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit reveals to him that he will not die before seeing the Lord’s Messiah, and eventually the Spirit leads him to the Temple on the day that Mary and Joseph present the baby Jesus to the Lord. Simeon praises Jesus in front of everyone and says he can now die happy. He has received everything he hoped for. What are you hoping for this Christmas season?

Pastor Josh Surratt discusses several things that we may focus on too much that can cause us to lose hope:

- Circumstances
 - How is your current situation affecting your relationship with God?
 - Have you ever come close to losing hope that your circumstances would change? Explain.
- Voices
 - Are you listening to people who speak more discouragement than encouragement?
- Fatigue
 - Have you ever gotten tired of waiting, but stayed the course? How did things play out?
- Doubt
 - What doubts tend to seep in whenever you’re on the verge of something good happening?

Pastor Josh Surratt gives us ways to regift hope to our families and community:

1. Make sure you are standing in the right line.
 - a. In the past, what have you put your hope in that disappointed you? Relationships? Family? Health? Your future? Possessions?
 - b. Are you standing in the line that leads to Jesus?
 - c. Take a snapshot of your life right now. Where does it show your hope is anchored?
 - d. If you’re not where you want to be, what steps can you take to help refocus on your relationship with God?
2. Speak hope into the people around you.
 - a. Think of specific areas in which you have been blessed. How can you pass on those same blessings to others this Christmas season?
 - b. Who do you need to get in line with and encourage?
 - c. Focus on what you say this week. How much is more toward the negative?
 - d. How willing are you to share your faith and invite people to know Jesus?
 - e. Do you spend time thinking of the “after party?” How does it help in the day-to-day to remember you have the hope of eternal life?

Respond: What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?