

**DATE:** October 1, 2023

**TITLE:** HOPE SERIES: Hope In Suffering

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5:1-8

**SPEAKER:** Dave Mobley

# FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**September Memory Verse:**  
**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13**

## OPENING PRAYER

**ICE BREAKER:** Can you share a past moment (little things not big ones please) when you felt embarrassed? How would you describe the feelings of embarrassment?

**THINK BACK:** Referring back to this week's sermon... What is the BIG IDEA of the Scripture AS IT WAS TAUGHT THIS WEEK? Was there anything that left you with questions?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Read Romans 5:1-8**
- How does God see us right now in Christ according to Romans 5:1-5?
- Does suffering or losing hope come first? Have you ever given up hope in something or someone?
- John Stott says, "Suffering is the only path to glory." Agree or disagree?
- Define character. How does suffering work regarding character?
- What does it mean that hope will not put to shame? Look up Genesis 2:25; Romans 1:16; and Hebrews 11:16. What do you learn about shame?
- How does Paul connect hope to the love of God for us?
- Has God proved His love to you?
- When Paul talks of hope in 1 Corinthians 13:7, what does he teach us about hope's connection to love??

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13
- Titus 2:11-13
- 1 John 3:2
- Colossians 3:3,4
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

## APPLICATION

Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do? What's one thing from this text that you could say to an unbeliever about who God is?

## PRAYER

Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text. Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

## SHEPHERDING

Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

## REMINDERS

### Small Group Checklist

- Ask about ideas to serve in some way together. Serve 1x every six weeks or so.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!! One way to reach 'out' together is to welcome people 'in.'
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

**Check the bulletin, monthly newsletter and events page on the website for ways that you can get plugged in, as well as events here at FCC. Here are a couple of those things:**

- Mark your calendars for our next Prayer & Worship Night which will be held on Sunday, October 22nd at 6PM here at FCC.
- Our Baptism, Covenant Membership, and Child Dedication Orientations are coming up and all on the events tab of the website with open registrations. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please register online!
- Ladies Day: Ladies, join us on October 14th for a fun day of Christian Living classes! Register online! Cost is \$30. Deadline to register is October 7th