

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 3

25 May 2017

One Life – Found in the Truth

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Icebreaker

Has something you have hoped for come to pass? How did it happen?

Introduction

As believers our hope is in the Lord Jesus, the everlasting Cornerstone of our faith. Everything we do should be aligned with this Cornerstone because His principles and truths provide both hope and life-giving direction for our lives. We are called to be bearers of this hope, actively engaging with and revitalising the world around us. As we do so, we must always be ready to give the reason for our hope. This will involve being able to answer questions regarding what we believe about our existence (why am I here?), knowledge (how can I know anything?), choice (what must I choose?) and purpose (where is everything going to?).

Discussion

- How did you become a Christian? Share with one another.
- Meditate on 1 Peter 3:13-15 and then answer the following question: What is the reason for *your* hope?
- When you are in the work context or at social events, how do you respond to people's negative comments or hopelessness about the news headlines? How can you defend your hope 'with gentleness and respect'?
- The Lord Jesus is the chief Cornerstone of our lives. He is the reason for our existence and in Him we have our identity, purpose and understanding. Read John 1:1-12 and Revelations 21:3 together. In light of these passages, how do we answer the following questions:
 1. Existence – Why am here? What is my origin?
 2. Knowledge – How can you know anything? (in this passage, *light* refers to *understanding*)
 3. Choice – What must I choose from the multiple possibilities?
 4. Purpose – Where is everything going to? What is my future?

- We can also apply this hope to South Africa. Do you have hope for our nation? Do you have a dream for South Africa? Share this with one another. As a life group, write down some things that you dream for our country and bring these to the Lord in prayer.

Prayer

- Speak out adoration towards the Father because He sent us Jesus, speak adoration towards Jesus who came and was obedient to the point of death, and speak adoration towards the Holy Spirit who walks with us day by day.
- Give thanks to the Lord that He is our everlasting Hope.
- Pray for and encourage those who are feeling hopeless. Pray Psalm 3 over those who feel besieged and overwhelmed.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give us the words we need (Luke 21:13-15) to defend our hope appropriately.
- Bless and pray hopeful prayers over our country:
'...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you... Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.' Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)