

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

11. Reflect on some of the difficult times in your life, especially in your faith journey, that you later found God used for good. What did you learn about God from those experiences? How did your hope impact your discouragement or depression?

12. What are some specific ways we might encourage one another to believe God is good and cling to the hope we have in Him? Share about a time when you needed hope and were encouraged by the story of someone in our Growth Group.

13. Take a few minutes to reflect on God's proven faithfulness in the past. What light does His past faithfulness shed on the darkness of today?

Prayer Requests

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February 14, 2016

Sermon Notes

When Darkness Rains: Your God Can't Fix It?

Psalms 42–43

Poetic Structure is Important

Two essential A_____
when people challenge your F_____ during times of
T_____

1. We express a P_____ P_____

a. Unfilled L_____

b. Unfilled T_____

2. We embrace a S_____ H_____

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

February 14, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. How would you define hope, and what does it mean to have hope?
2. How does depression steal hope, even from believers?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ ROMANS 4:13-17.

3. Who was Abraham, and what did God promise Him (refer to Genesis 12:1-4)? Why does Paul hold Abraham up as an example?
4. What promise (v. 13) belongs to us because of the faith we have in God (v. 16)?
5. God is faithful to His children, and He reiterates His faithfulness time and again in His Word. What promises of God are you struggling to cling to in this season of life? Or what promise do you struggle with most often?

READ ROMANS 4:18-21.

6. According to verse 18, why did Abraham believe God? What circumstances in Abraham's life might have caused him to doubt God (vv. 19-20)?

7. What does it mean to hope "against all hope"? What in your life has caused you to have to fight to maintain hope?

8. Paul wrote that Abraham was "fully persuaded" (v. 21) that God could fulfill His promises to Abraham. What are some of the traits and actions of God in Scripture that help us be fully persuaded to hope in Him?

READ ROMANS 4:22-25.

9. Paul included the fact that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness for our benefit. What is the faith of Abraham ultimately meant to point us to?

10. How would you sum up the promise from verses 23-25? What implications does this promise have on how we face today?