



Hope for Everyone, Pt. 1: Dealing with Disappointment

When things don't go our way we typically respond with anger, doubt, or some sort of disappointment. During this message we'll attempt to help people see that even when things don't go our way, we can remain hopeful. And inside the tension between asking and receiving we can learn some valuable lessons about how life works and the hope Christ brings to us.

Bottom Line: Even when things don't go my way, I can remain hopeful.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are you most looking forward to this holiday season?
2. **Read Luke 1:5-7, 13, 24-25.** It is clear that Zechariah and Elizabeth's lack of children had not only been disappointing, but was also perceived as a shameful and embarrassing thing in their culture. While they were carrying around their disappointment, is there anything that could have encouraged them? What tends to encourage you when you are disappointed?
3. Sometimes good, righteous people have deep, painful disappointments in their lives that are no fault of their own, and are certainly not punishments from God. Why do you suppose so many people blame God or themselves when encountering disappointments?
4. What have you learned about God from your own times of disappointment? How can your past experience with disappointment help shape your future?
5. **Read Luke 1:67-79.** As you read through Zechariah's song, it seems like he used his experience not just to comfort himself, but also to speak to others about God rescuing his people. Christmas can be a tough time of year for people. Who do you know who needs some encouragement? Is there anything that you can do to speak hope into their fears and disappointments?
6. The last line of **Luke 1:79** says that Jesus' arrival will forgive their sin and "shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Take a moment to pray for each other in your group so that you may experience peace during the difficult moments in your life.
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.