

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – December 4, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota
Sermon Title: What Prophecy Teaches Us About Hope

Notes:

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Opening Questions: Think back over the course of your life. What was the one gift that you hoped for the most for either a birthday or Christmas? Did you receive it? If so, how did you respond when you received that gift? If not, how did you handle your disappointment?

Read and Discuss: Read Hebrews 11:1. How would you describe the correlation between faith and hope?

When someone is hopeless, how does that impact their relationship with God?

Have you ever had a time where you felt hopeless? What did it take to bring you back from that despair?

Discuss: The children of Israel had a long history with Jehovah. They saw God work on their behalf in marvelous ways, and at times they experienced the sting of God's judgment. The period of time between the Old Testament and the New Testament is often times called, "400 years of silence." Think about that for a moment. God, for the most part, is silent for generations of people from Israel, after revealing Himself in such powerful ways for thousands of years. How do you think this period of silence impacted the hope of the nation of Israel?

Someone has said that Bible prophecy concerning Messiah was God's birth announcement sent thousands of years in advance. The coming Messiah gave the people of Israel hope. Based upon your knowledge of Bible prophecy, what are some prophecies concerning the future that give you hope?

What's The Deal With . . . Biblical Answers to Everyday Questions

What Prophecy Teaches Us About Hope

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Read and Discuss: Read the Bible verses below that speak prophetically and are the fulfillment of that prophecy as it concerns Messiah. Discuss why each of these fulfilled prophecies are important in our understanding of Jesus.

Prophetic Promise	Prophecy Foretold In	Prophecy Fulfilled In
Messiah would be born of the seed of a woman	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:20
Messiah would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 25
Messiah is the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:15
Messiah is the seed of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1
Messiah would be a descendent of Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:23-34
Messiah would be of the house of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23-31
Messiah would be born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Messiah would be a Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:18	Matthew 21:1
Messiah would be a Priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 3:1; 5:5-6
Messiah would be a King	Psalms 2:6	Matthew 27:37
Messiah would judge	Isaiah 33:22	John 5:30
Messiah would be preceded by a Messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
Messiah would be rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 7:5, 48
Messiah would have His side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Messiah would be crucified	Psalms 22:1, Psalms 22:11-18	Luke 23:33; John 19:33; John 19:23-24

Pray: Our faith can be strengthened when we recognize the prophecies fulfilled in the life of Christ. Every prophecy concerning Messiah was fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As you close in prayer today, ask God to strengthen your faith in Him as you walk through this Christmas season.