

This series highlights the peace teachings of Jesus and how they can shift the ways we act and react in our everyday lives. This week focuses on hope.

HANGOUT

1. Discuss:
 - What's the last thing you wished or hoped for?
 - What's something you feel truly hopeful about now or for your future?

HEAR

2. Look up and read Romans 12:12-16 together.
3. Discuss:
 - Does anything really stick out to you in this passage?
 - What could it look like in everyday life to do what it says in verse 13? What might it look like at school, for example?
 - What would it look like to do what it says in verse 14?
 - What does it mean to "bless" someone?
 - Who do you need to pay back with a blessing?
4. Look up and read one or more of the following passages: Romans 5:3-5; Romans 15:13; and/or 1 Corinthians 13:7.
5. Discuss:
 - What does this passage say about hope?
 - Where do you actually place your hope?
 - What or who do you hope will "save" you (from loneliness, from boredom, from yourself) in some way?

HUDDLE

6. Spend extra time in your huddles this week. Consider the following, and have an extended time of prayer together:
 - To be joyful in hope (see Romans 12:12) means to expect and delight in Jesus, the hope of the world. Our immediate suffering matters less because Jesus outshines the darkness around us. How could you be joyful in hope? Do you have dark areas that need the light of Jesus to shine through?
 - To be patient in affliction means to remain true and endure through pressure. The word "affliction" is translated from the Greek words *Stenochoria* and *Thlipsis*, meaning "confined in a small and excruciating uncomfortable space". Paul started off this letter to the Romans by saying "do not be conformed to the pattern of this world". How are you (or Christians in general) being conformed or confined by culture and circumstances?
 - To be faithful in prayer means never giving up on seeking and nourishing a relationship and communicating with God. Plan some extra prayer as a group this week. For example, set a time when you all pray each day, or get together online/on the phone to pray every day, or meet in person to pray. Make a realistic goal and be faithful to it!