

BIG IDEA

Faith grows when our hope is tested.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

How does our culture define hope? How do you define it?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. What words or phrases stand out to you? How do these key words impact your understanding of hope?

Do you really believe that “God is bigger than the problems presented to us?” What evidence in your life supports your answer?

Read Psalm 42:1-5. What do you think this passage is saying about reliance on God? Have there been times when your hope increased in hard times? Times when it failed? Explain.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What areas in your life are you relying on yourself (or other people) to give you hope our assurance?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Do you tend toward hope or despair when you encounter hard times? What does God want you to know about this?

Read the following quote. *“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” - Victor Frankl*

When faced with a situation of difficulty or despair, how does your attitude impact your reliance on God?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Is there something that is robbing you of hope? What steps can you take to grow in faith and live with hope?

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 & 13. How does this verse impact your view of persecution of the church today? Do you think that you face persecution? Why or Why not?

What can you do in a time of testing to increase your faith? How can hope help with this?

