

Week 1: Hope in the Waiting

Series: Changed in the Waiting

Scripture: Psalm 25

Scripture provides a _____ with God.

- reminds us that we are called to be people who _____ because of who God _____, who God has _____ been, and who God _____ to be.

Psalm 25 reminds us that it's about the _____ of a life _____ with God.

- God is _____ faithful, regardless of our _____.
- Hope isn't blind _____, but is centered on a _____ that what is good and right will _____.

A life connected to the Living God and lived in _____ moves us to be _____ by God.

- Transformation leads to _____.
- Because God is good, _____, and _____.
- So if we are a people who are going to be transformed by God, then we will also become a people who are upright, loving, and faithful.
- Hope _____ within us with the power to move _____ in the ways that God is leading.

Hope is not just for us; it's for the world!

Start talking.

- When lost in a strange city or new store, do you: Ask for help? Consult the map? Find your own way?

Start thinking. Read Psalm 25

- When David writes in this psalm that his hope is in God “all day long,” what do you think that looked like?
- In which verses does David ask God for protection from his enemies? What sort of enemies did he face?
- In which verses does David ask for guidance? What characterizes God’s “path” (v5)? Who will God guide?
- In which verses does David ask for forgiveness? Does God have a bad memory (v7)? To what aspect of God does he make his appeal?
- How is David’s personal plea also a congregational prayer (v22)?

Start sharing.

- What makes hope difficult? What lies do you hear that distract you from having hope?
- How does hope change our daily lives?
- Can we have hope and lament at the same time? How does hope impact lament, and how does lament impact hope?
- What happens to hope when it feels like God is silent?
- What are things that remind you to lean into hope?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, you are patient. We struggle to wait, wanting to experience what you have planned right now: to fix every broken thing. While we wait, we thank you for the gift of hope that is with us in the middle of the mess. Give us more of your hope so we can share it with others. Guide and teach us as we work to be your ambassadors of hope to others. As we wait for you, we rejoice in the anticipation of a coming Savior. We love you, purposeful Creator. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Pay attention to moments where you have to wait—like in the line for lunch or at a store, or for a ride to an event. In those moments, ask God to give you hope and to use you as a reminder of hope for others.