

When Hope Seems Lost | John 19:38-42

Opening Activity

The opening activity is designed to help you move into the lesson portion of your meeting time. The icebreaker questions will help to engage your group members in conversation.

- Share with the group a time in your life when you thought hope was lost?
- How did you regain hope in this situation?

Scripture Reading

Ask one of your group members to read the Scripture; make sure they are comfortable with reading in front of a group.

John 19:38-42

“After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.”

Transition to the Video

As the leader, you will want to help the group move into the video session and direct them to the notes section in their participant guide. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- Ask your group: “What do you think was going through the minds of Joseph and Nicodemus as they prepared the body of Jesus for burial?”
- Or, simply ask your group to turn to page 46 in your guide and take notes as you watch the video.

Notes from the Video Session

1. Fear can turn into **courage** even in the face of **hopelessness**. (John 19:38)
2. All the hope these men **needed** was in front of them. (John 19:40)
3. You often find **hope** where you lost it. (John 10:41-42)

Transition from the Video

As the leader, help the group move from the video session into the discussion time. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- **Ask your group members: “What insights did you gain from the video?”**
- **Or, direct their attention to the discussion questions provided on page 46.**

Discussion Questions

Guide your group members through the discussion time using the questions below:

1. What kind of burial would you like?
2. What would the atmosphere be like at your burial? Somber? Small and private? Large and boisterous? Why?
3. Why did formerly secret believers Joseph and Nicodemus risk public exposure now?
4. What motivates you to be courageous in your faith?
5. How does your fear of others and your love of Jesus sometimes conflict?
6. What has been your greatest point of hopelessness? Share how God brought you through this situation.
7. In spite of past failures and fears, what will you do this week to show your love for Jesus?

Group Prayer Time

God can do incredible things with dire circumstances, pray for each other and the situations in which you find yourselves.

- Pray for a resolve among your group to never give up hope, no matter the circumstances.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and lay the things you have lost hope in before the Lord. (A child who has wandered away, or a situation that on the outside looks dire.)

