

WEEK FOUR - Hope

Scripture Passage:

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you from Dr. Van Dyk's reflections?
2. Why do you think Dr. Van Dyk believes that suffering/lament and hope are connected?
 - a. How might this connection of suffering/lament and hope shape our practices as a community?
 - b. How do we make space for lament?
 - c. What might we miss if we rush to hope too quickly after a time of prolonged separation?
3. Dr. Van Dyk names Romans 8 as a key passage for understanding hope.
 - a. *"**38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38-39)
 - b. How does this passage inform our understanding of hope?
4. Do you believe it is a hard time for people to have hope right now? If so, why? If not, why not?
5. How does God's vision of hope for our lives and for the world impact our personal faith journeys?
 - a. Reflect on a time when God's hope helped you get through a difficult situation.
6. How does "hope" shape your understanding of living a worshipFULL life?