

Surprised by Hope Lenten study material 2010

Session two: The Hope of the World

Group discussion 45 minutes

Questions for group work

1. Initial reaction to what was said – surprises or points of strong agreement or disagreement.
2. How do you view the world, is it getting better or worse?
3. Tell a story from your personal life, church life or national history, where a person of hope stood up for others during a hard time and helped bring hope back to the people.
4. Many people live and work in places where there is potential for hopelessness and fatalism. Name places in your community or country where hope seems to have run out and that desperately need a fresh infusion of hope that only God can bring.
5. If someone asked, “What is the hope of the Christian faith?” what would you answer?
6. How might living with the assurance and hope of heaven, and having confidence in the resurrection, move us to action and bring hope right where we live today?
7. With our Parish centre only a few months from completion, how could we use this as a vehicle of hope in Brampton?
8. Share what you can remember about [Rev Gill Rowell's \(Novimost\) visit to St Thomas'](#). What does that have to say to us today about Christian hope in action?
9. Write a collect prayer for 'the Hope of the World'.
10. “So far from sitting on clouds playing harps, as people often imagine, the redeemed people of God in the new world will be agents of his love going out in new ways, to accomplish new creative tasks, to celebrate and extend the glory of his love” (page 117 in ‘Surprised by Hope’). How does this make you feel? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? If you agree, what is your expectation as to what this might look like?