

March 22, 2020

Hope Is In The House

What was your favorite part about last Sunday's on-line service? What was your favorite dance?

What do you remember from the message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Where have you seen God at work in the past couple weeks?

What is Hope's "theme verse"?

(A: Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you, not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future.")

Do you ever have trouble believing that God wants to bless you and give you good gifts? Why?

What does Romans 8:32 say?

(A: "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?")

What word might you use to describe your belief in the above verse?

(A: "Faith")

What is faith according to Hebrews 11:1?

(A: Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. (NCV)

READ: Matthew 7:7-11

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if

you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”

If God is a giver who wants to give good things to his children, why does he allow things like pandemics and other unpleasant and destructive things to enter our world?

How would you describe a rich and satisfying life? *[Encourage everyone to share their own personal idea of a rich and satisfying life.]*

How do you think God would describe a rich and satisfying life?

Is your description the same as God’s or different? Why?

Do you believe that as you grow closer to God your life becomes richer and more satisfying? Why?

READ John 10: 9:15

“I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.”

What does Jesus say is the secret to a rich and satisfying life?