



Passage Matthew 5:1-16; Romans 15:13

Title Being A Hope Generator

Speaker: Ben Courson

Discussion Starter: How did this week's message allow you to take a look at the importance of our thoughts and how they impact our behaviors, our speech, our actions and eventually who we become in life?

Thinking On What You Think (Isaiah 26:12; Proverbs 15:13,15; Matthew 5:3-4; Psalms 126:5-6)

- How does our thought life impact our spiritual health and personal well-being?
- What is the connection between our faith and the hope that we have?
How should our faith / hope shape our thought life even in difficult or dark situations in life?
- What do Jesus' beatitudes reveal about the way we can have a blessed mindset? Discuss how and why this mindset that leads to abundant life?

Attributes of a "Hope Generator" (Matthew 5:5-11; Romans 5:4,14; Colossians 1:15-17; Romans 8:32)

- What is the relationship of God's Word and our hope?
- God is for us! He works all things to our good. Discuss how our lives should reflect the hope we have in God?
- To become a "hope generator" which of the seven character traits listed in Matthew 5:5-11 do you need to focus on the most and why?

Shine Where it's Dark (Matthew 5:13-16; Proverbs 24:16; Philippians 2:15)

- Explain the analogy of how we are like film are being developed in the dark? Discuss how God even uses darkness for our benefit when we abide in Jesus.
- What example of hope and instruction does Jesus model for us as He faced the three hours of darkness which came over the land as He bore the wrath of our sins upon the cross?
- Knowing that God is for us and that he uses our lives to display His glory, what does it mean when the Bible tells us to be the salt & light of the earth?