



SBSG – Baggage Check: Cynicism - Hope

The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through grace filled relationships.

READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)

Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN

Sermon Series: Baggage Check: Cynicism - Hope

Opening question: In what ways does cynicism function in your life?

Sermon Synopsis: On a broad level cynicism is a basic distrust of everyone and everything around you. Usually, cynicism starts with very real disappointments that we experience in our life. But over time, those past disappointments keep us from putting too much hope in anything working out, being made new, or surprising us. We begin living with cynicism, looking at everything through a lens of past disappoints. As we start a new year, we will challenge one other to set aside the suitcase of cynicism and embrace hope in God once again.

Bible Reading

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

Passage(s) from the sermon: Ecclesiastes 1: 1,18 Eph 1:17-20 (CEB)

What stood out to you in the passage?

Discipleship Point: Jesus came to bring us hope

Application: How can you replace cynicism with hope this week?

Personal Prayer Request

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about **your life**, not someone else's.

(Sample Prayer)

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for _____ and _____ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request, and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**