

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Stories of Summer with Pastors Daniel & Jackie Groves
Summer at Hope City

Main Idea

Summer is a great time for adventure. However, our best planning and good intentions sometimes have less than favorable obstacles thrown in the mix. We heard from some of our Hope City team how they handled some of the adventures they've experienced and what they learned in the process.

GOD GUIDES US.

Read: Psalm 37:23 (NLT)

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

Pastor Orok Duke told a story about how he lost his keys on the beach, but after prayer and searching, he found the keys. Where have you seen God guiding you and taking care of the details? What have you lost or have been missing that you are still asking God for help? What is your part in the process, and how are you handling it?

THE MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE SERVING OTHER PEOPLE.

Read: Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Johnny Luvender told us about his frustration with his family as they hiked up the mountains in Colorado. He mentioned how sometimes we can be so focused on our progress that we miss the people God has placed in our lives. How are you following Galatians 6:2 and carrying the burdens of others?

EVERY OPEN DOOR IS NOT A PART OF YOUR PURPOSE.

Read: Revelation 3:8 (NLT)

"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."

Pastor Matt Neff shared how his kids were so excited for the beach that they kept running out of the elevator before they got to the ground floor. When was there a time that you rushed God and settled for getting out on the wrong floor? What was the outcome?

COUNT IT ALL JOY.

Read: James 1:2 (ESV)

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds."

Pastor Desirée Neff shared an experience where their son was injured the first night of their vacation, but they chose joy in the midst, pivoted their activity plans, and now have incredible memories. What area in your life do you need to pivot from and count it all as joy?

DON'T SETTLE ON ANYTHING LESS THAN WHAT GOD HAS SAID.

Read: Psalm 119:2-3 (TPT)

What joy overwhelms everyone who keeps the ways of God, those who seek him as their heart's passion! They'll never do what's wrong but will always choose the paths of the Lord.

In Bethany Gambino's story about purchasing a used car, she stepped out in obedience to decree the peace of God amid her fear. Because she didn't settle, her obedience led to someone else finding hope. Where is God asking you to obey, and who can it affect on the other side?

WHEN GOD CALLS YOU INTO THE DEEP AND UNCOMFORTABLE, TRUST HIM.

Read: Luke 5:4 (NLT)

4 "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Pastor Shaun Perry's adventure took his family past the more popular yet dirtier beach to find more transparent waters. His willingness to go further down the coast wasn't just for his benefit but was a blessing for his whole family. What area of your life is God calling you to throw your nets on the other side?

Summary

We all can probably relate to one of the stories of adventure that we heard. The truth is, we each have our own story to tell. Life is an adventure, and God wants us to make the most of it. We need to trust Him to handle the details. Let us be willing to pivot and choose joy when things don't work out as planned, and be open for God to teach us in those moments. Always remember, you are not alone. Trust God and lean on the life-giving people He has placed in your life.

Call To Action

1. Start documenting your stories of adventure in life, and track what God is doing.
2. Take inventory of the people God has positioned in your life. How are they included in your life mission to serve others?
3. When your adventures take an unexpected turn, take a pause and ask yourself if you want to be a thermostat or a thermometer.

Group Leader Resource

Game: Once Upon A Time

Once Upon A Time is a funny game involving creativity and a group of people making a story together. You can play as a single team or, for larger groups, form teams of at least six players. You can prepare a theme in advance if you wish. For example, you can require all stories about a specific topic (e.g., Christmas, food, or relationships). Have everyone form a line or be seated in a circle. Each person can only say one sentence and must continue the story. The first player in line begins the story by saying “Once upon a time...” and completes the sentence. The following person in line must continue the story and have it make sense. This process continues until it reaches the last person in the team’s line. The last person in line must also conclude the story in one sentence.