

NO FILTERS

A HOPE CITY RELATIONSHIP SERIES

Discussion Guide

10/01/2023

Standing Together Through the Storms

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Main Idea

Today with our guests Pastor Ken and Tabatha Claytor, we will discover key elements to the truth that we truly are better together.

John 16:22 (ESV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you will have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.

Before you say “I Do” Ask Yourself “Do I”

Infatuation fades and the butterflies fly away. True love - agape love - is unconditional and everlasting.

Whether in a marriage relationship or friendship, where are you seeing signs of true sacrificial love? How do you know the difference?

Read: John 15:13

Normalize the Difficulties

We have a tendency to have high expectations that life is always going to be good and happy. Those unmet expectations can lead to frustration and disappointment.

Where are you frustrated or unhappy in your relationships? In what ways can you see and admit that it is in part due to your high expectations of happiness?

Read: John 16:33

Storms Are Opportunities For Divine Turnarounds

We can either allow things to make us bitter, or they can make us better. Remember the “palms up” principle, where we can take heart in the midst of the storm and say “nevertheless Lord, I trust you.”

Where is there a storm that you need God to make it into a whisper? Where are you allowing things to make you bitter? What is truly at the root?

Read: Psalm 107:29

Carry One Another's Burdens

In marriage, two become one flesh. When trouble comes in any of our relationships, we need to lock arms and turn against the enemy, not against each other.

Where have you been fighting within your relationships when you should have been fighting together against the enemy?

Read: Matthew 19:5, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:12

SUMMARY

We should expect storms in life and in our relationships BUT we should also expect that God will see us through each and every one. At times God will hush the waves and still the storm. Other times he will use the storm to reveal His goodness. Together, with God's help, we can stand strong and grow in the midst of the storm.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Read John 16:16-33
2. Be honest with your spouse (or friends) and talk about the expectations that you have been placing on each other.
3. Find community with others that can speak into your relationship and use their wisdom to support and strengthen your “together”.
4. Ladies, mark your calendars for Ladies Night, Friday, October 6, 7PM, at our West Houston location.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Volcano

For this one, everyone will stand up and start walking around the room. The leader will then shout out the name of something – like volcano, or airplane – and everyone will have to do their best to physically form that thing. For example, if the organizer shouts “Volcano, 1,2,3,4,5”, everyone will do their best volcano impression on the count of 5.

This one is great for getting people moving, and making some funny shapes! Bonus points for the worst or silliest interpretation. Other examples you could use: various sports, animals, skydiving,