

God Is _____ Hope When You're Hurting

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope
... Lamentations 3:19-21 NIV

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil ... All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. ... Ephesians 2:1-5 NLT

"... Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."
2 Samuel 24:14 NIV

... Mercy triumphs over judgment.
James 2:13 NIV

... in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Romans 12:1 CSB

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What comes to mind when you think about who God is?
- What experiences and influences have shaped your view of God?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Read **2 Samuel 24:14**. Talk about how it feels to fall into God's hands instead of the hands of people.
- How could God's mercy bring you hope when you're hurting?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about a time when you didn't get what you deserved—when you received mercy. How did that experience impact your faith?
- How could you more regularly extend mercy to others?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, You are rich in mercy. Please help us receive the mercy You are so freely giving us so that we are able to extend it to those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Have you misunderstood the true nature of God? Spend time processing that misconception with someone you trust so that you can begin discovering the kindness and compassion of God.
- Start the *God Is _____* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/GodIs
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.