

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style. For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Resilience. The human capacity to get up again and again after falling down; the ability to recover quickly from many difficulties. A new year typically sparks excitement for new opportunities, plans, dreams, and goals. And yet, at the beginning of this new year we still find ourselves in the middle of a worldwide health crisis and an amended way of life. Hope is on the horizon, but we know any semblance of normal, or even a "new normal," is still months away. What we need now is resilience. What we need now is the firm foundation of scripture and our Christian tradition that show us that our faith is resilient because of the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Join us this January as we review practices for cultivating hope in the midst of incredible suffering through meaning, creativity, and community.

Message Synopsis

New Testament scholar, Gavin Rowe points to the early church to argue that resilience "is a communal practice... [it is] the fruit of a common life rooted in hope itself." Just like we cannot live alone, we also cannot hope alone. We do not mourn like those who have no hope, but because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we can stand firm on the hope and promise of our own resurrection. The weary world rejoices in this truth; all things shall be redeemed. May we be a community that encourages one another and hopes for one another in moments that we are not able to ourselves.

Key Scriptures

2 Corinthians 6:1-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

Questions Related to This Week's Message

It is no secret that sustaining a sense of community has been one of the greatest challenges of this pandemic. In moments of struggle, we are usually able to rely on the presence of our family, friends, and church to carry us through. And yet in many ways, we feel cut off from the very ways we usually cope; by gathering together, sharing meals, and even serving. But this doesn't mean sustaining community is impossible, only that we have to be more intentional.

- 1. What are some ways that you have experienced the presence and power of community in the last 6 months?*
- 2. What do you miss the most about gathering together, either for church or with friends and family? What do you have a renewed sense of appreciation for since our time physically apart?*
- 3. How can you as a house group continue to encourage and strengthen one another, even now?*
- 4. What do you most need from this group right now?*
- 5. Is there a connection in your group that might allow you to serve and bless someone else right now? A way you can cultivate community by serving together in a common goal (collection for a local food pantry, blessing of a server, notes of encouragement to teachers and school faculty, coffee gift cards to a nurse you know, etc).*

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “God and Community” (10 min)

(located in the “Renovation Home Groups” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/268026>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Where do you want or need to grow most in your faith and Christlikeness? Who do you know who is strong in this area who could help show you the way? What steps can you take to build community with this person that will influence you in this area? Why are you afraid to take these steps (or why not)?
3. What do you feel alone in right now? What struggles are you facing by yourself? What do you hide inside, afraid that nobody else understands? (To the rest of the group, be careful not to try to fix this, but simply listen and love the person who is sharing.)
4. How has your church community transformed your life? How about your small group? Any other groups?
5. Do you see yourself as an avenue for healing, growth, and a safe place for other people in your group and church? Why or why not?
6. Does your love draw others to Jesus (like the movie preview mentioned by Jon Tyson)? Why or why not? If not, how can your group become like that?
7. How does your group reflect the characteristics of UP, IN, and OUT? Is one of these stronger or weaker than the others? If so, how can you grow the weaker areas?

If you want to go deeper, also consider watching the following: **Building Community on Costly Grace** by Tim Keller (in the Renovation Group Conference Sessions channel or at <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/71441>). It’s long at 35 minutes, but it offers a profound look into groups that are bound by costly grace for the sake of healing growth, family closeness, and the countercultural reversal of worldly values. Below the video are a number of discussion questions for your group to help you process and activate what you will hear in this message.

Family-Related Questions:

1. Children need community. But sometimes they can feel left out of the relationships adults have, or they can feel undermined or pushed aside from “adult conversations” that help form transformational community. Discuss some creative ways to involve your children in your group on a weekly basis. Allow them to witness how you process with other people and how you listen to and encourage and pray for others. Even invite them to listen, to pray, to hug someone who’s hurting, and to share with the group in an appropriate context as a valued and essential part of your community.
2. If you’ve seen the movie *Inside Out*, you may remember the scene where Joy discovers the important role of Sadness in Riley’s life. She discovers that by sharing her hurts and fears with others, her community of family and friends rallied around her to strengthen and encourage her and even celebrate her. Consider watching this movie as a family this week and using it as a way to discuss the importance of vulnerable community with your kids (and also the safe boundaries kids should have when sharing with others). Are there other movies or stories you can think of that might help you discuss this value with your children?