

"Hope for Our Relationships"

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INTRODUCTION

Living a Christian life should cause us to live differently than the world. When we learn to "put off our old self" and put our hope in Him, then we can truly find HOPE For Our Relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **Read Ephesians 4:17-19**. Living "in the futility of their thinking" refers to the natural tendency of human beings to think their way away from God. Does his description of their culture sound like our world today?
- 2. Read Ephesians 4:20-24.
 - What do you think it means to "put off your old self"?
 - Can we do this in our own power?
- 3. Read Ephesians 4:25. We can have HOPE in our relationships if we speak truthfully.
 - Why is that difficult to do?
 - How do we speak the truth WITH grace?
- 4. **Read Ephesians 4:26-27**. We can have HOPE in our relationships if we deal with conflict appropriately.
 - What do these two passages tell us to do?
 - Give examples of how we can do this in our lives today.
- 5. **Read Ephesians 4:28**. We can have HOPE in our relationships if we seek to be a giver.
 - Talk about some practical ways to be a "giver".
- 6. **Read Ephesians 4:29** We can have HOPE in our relationships if we encourage rather than discourage.
 - Can you think of a time when you chose to ENCOURAGE instead of DISCOURAGE? What happened?
- 7. **Read Ephesians 4:30-32.** We can have HOPE in our relationships if we are Kind, Compassionate and Forgiving.
 - How do these passages tell us to do this?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." **Ephesians 4:32**

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share prayer requests, and commit to praying for one another until you meet again.