



What Not to Expect When You're Expecting | Andrew Matrone | 10.18.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you had an all-access pass to one restaurant for the rest of your life (free food whenever you want), which spot would you choose, and why?

SHARE

Welcome to Week Ten of Kingdom Culture. Two thousand years ago, Jesus started the process of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. In this series, we are talking about what it means to continue the process.

This week, Andrew talked about expectations! But before we dive in, take some time to check in with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

Rate your week on a scale of one to ten. Why did you choose that number?

If you had to describe your week using one-word, which word would you choose?

What is one thing you are currently looking forward to?

GROW

Read Romans 4:18-21

What do you know about the book of Romans? Why is Paul talking about Abraham?

Would you consider yourself a hopeful person? Would those closest to you say you are a hopeful person?

Abraham is one of the heroes of the faith in the Bible. Although he made a ton of mistakes, he never stopped believing that God was in control. In the passage you just read, Paul is reflecting back on Abraham's hope. Abraham had a life full of unmet expectations and let downs, but through it all, he never lost hope.

Abraham is a fantastic example of staying faithful, even when things do not look good.

Have you ever had to deal with unmet expectations? Did you handle it well? Tell the group about it.

What is one place in your life where you need to get your hopes back up?

Too often, we treat God like a vending machine. If we say the right thing and do enough good things, God has to give us what we want and fulfill our dreams. As if there is some formula we can use to understand and manipulate an infinite God.

The problem is, when things go wrong, we automatically start to believe that God is mad at us, or we did something wrong. But that's not how it works. God is something much better than a vending machine we can manipulate. God is a loving Father who gives us a series of promises in Scripture that we can trust.

The best thing we can do with our expectations is to make sure they line up with God's Promises. Let's read some of God's promises together:

Are you tired?

Matthew 11:28- Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest

Are you anxious?

Philippians 4:6-7- Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Do you feel lost?

Psalms 119:105- Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Do you feel weak?

Ephesians 3:20- Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

Do you need some joy?

Psalms 16:11- You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Do you need wisdom?

James 1:5- If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Which of those verses or questions stuck out the most? Why do you think that is?

How can you remind yourself of this promise throughout the week?

M O V E

Read Revelation 12:11

Whether your Group just started meeting or has been meeting for several months, it is so important to continue getting to know each other more. Let's reread Revelation 12:11 together:

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Your story is powerful, so although sharing can be scary, it is one of the most fruitful things your group can do. Pick two-three people from your group this week and have them answer the following questions:

1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?

2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.
3. How have you changed in the last five years?
4. Describe yourself in five words and explain why you picked each one.
5. Who is God to you?

Every person has a unique journey they have been on that has led them to this point. Taking the time to share your story is a fantastic exercise for you and for everyone listening!

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12