

Hope in Tough Times

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How does knowing that you are a beloved child of God impact how you deal with difficult times and situations in your life? Has there been a time when you have forgotten your true identity as a child of God? What did that look like and feel like? Who or what helps you remember that you are a child of God?**
- 2. The Bible tells us that Jesus is Emanuel, God with us. When have you experienced God's presence in your life? How has God's presence made a difference for you?**
- 3. How has God brought hope to a hopeless situation for you? When have you seen God make a way out of no way?**
- 4. As citizens of hope, how can we best share that hope with others in our community and world?**



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



Psalm 137:1-4

By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How could we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



Psalm 137

**By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down
and there we wept when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there we hung up our harps. For
there our captors asked us for songs, and our
tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us
one of the songs of Zion!”**



How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.



Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!" O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!




Psalm 19:14

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my
rock and my redeemer.**



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney

**Isaiah 43:1–7**

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.



For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.



Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."



Romans 5:1–10

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



“Jesus is just alright with me.”



“Jesus stays up all night with me.”



Matthew 29:20b



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



Admiral Jim Stockdale



- Shot down over North Vietnam
- Spent eight years in the "Hanoi Hilton"
- Tortured over twenty times
- No prisoners rights





Admiral James Stockdale

"You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



Isaiah 43:19

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.



Citizens of Hope: Hope in Tough Times

Tom Deviney



(recording of Jimmy Cliff singing “By the Rivers of Babylon”?)