

CHAMPIONS! - HOW TO BE A CHAMPION OF HOPE, PT. 2

Scripture used: Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

The BIG IDEA: Champions are known for their discipline!

This week's message was part two in our Champion series where we learn how to have healthy dialogues around the racial tensions that continue to plague our nation and the world. In the book of Revelation, the apostle John puts into writing what God showed him in a vision about what is to come. A part of that vision is a place where a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, and language were worshiping God. We can, here and now, be champions of hope in breaking down racial barriers one conversation at a time. During each gathering, Pastor Hurmon modeled how to have such a conversation by sharing a video between him and Vince, a brother at NBCC. They modeled both what to do and what NOT to do while sharing their stories. It is our hope that each person at NBCC will engage in these crucial conversations and make an impact in the Bay Area by being Champions of Hope, one conversation at a time!

KEY POINTS - Tips for Dialogue

- 1) **Learn to Listen.** As tempting as it may be to agree, disagree, or interject while the other person is sharing their story, stay focused on THEIR pain, not yours.
- 2) **With humility, ask:**
 - *"Help me to understand from your perspective."* We must pull off our own set of lenses through which we see the world and try to see the world through the lenses of another and suspend the need to judge.
 - *"How did that make you feel?"* After they have shared, summarize and acknowledge his/her pain. Remember, you don't have to agree with someone to acknowledge their pain. Be compassionate to his/her suffering, not your own. (Phil. 2:3-4) In this way, we are Christ-like.
- 3) **Pray specifically for one another.** Prayer is the ultimate wall-breaker in relationship building and restoring. Joining hands during prayer or a simple appropriate touch on the shoulder is encouraged.
- 4) **Stretch towards each other.** When we stretch towards others, we are letting Christ's light shine through us to other people. It's not always easy and may involve getting out of our comfort zones, but when we stretch, we grow.

WARNING:

- Don't come back with a rebuttal story!
- Ask questions to clarify, but refrain from being pulled into a debate.
- Refocus the conversation if it gets off track, e.g. political debates, government policies, etc.

Common Fears to Ignore:

- There will only be one conversation.
- I will miss my chance to change him/her.
- I won't be able to vindicate myself or my people.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** What did you hear and/or see in the video that stood out to you? What other examples have you seen on good conversations about sensitive topics?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Learning to listen is not as easy as it sounds. How does Phil. 2:3-4 teach us how to listen?
- 3) **DO** Be a champion of hope in connecting with others from different cultures, races, and backgrounds than you. You can connect one of four ways:
 - One-on-one - Initiate individual conversations
 - Family chats - Engage in safe conversations with your immediate family
 - Life Groups - Share stories safely with trusted friends in your Life Group
 - Community Conversations - Join a diverse group of 8 other people in a facilitated dialogue over the next 3 months. Sign-ups are now open.