



## BETTER THAN BASIC: Week 3

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#### WEEK 3: A Better Way to Live.

**Bible:** Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

**Bottom Line:** You can live a life of purpose that brings hope to those you see every day.

Let's get started!!

Well, this series has taught us that life is just not that BASIC.

Let's quickly summarize what we've talked about in the last few weeks.

We began by saying that the word BASIC will never describe the life of someone who is following God.

We aren't boring and dull – we are created by a creative God who has made each of us with unique and special qualities.

Then, we learned that our attitude has a huge effect on the way we approach life at school.

If we look for the negative, we will find it everywhere.

If we expect to find the good in people and situations, we will find it.

Attitude is everything.

Last week, we discussed some of the trials that we face at school and learned that God is with us through it all.

Highs and lows are often the way that God helps us grow and become more like Him.

So, today we will conclude our anything but BASIC series by understanding the part we play in bringing hope to others.

You can live a life of purpose that brings hope to those you see every day.

What things in life bring you the most happiness?

You can answer in the comments section of our TWCFUZION FB Page right now!!

FUZION, I feel a lot of joy when I see people experience hope.

Here's a story of hope...

In 1981, a millionaire named Eugene Michael Lang visited a sixth-grade class in East Harlem.

Mr. Lang had been asked to speak to a class of 59 sixth-graders.

What could he say to inspire these students, most of whom would drop out of school?

He wanted to say something that would make a difference in these students lives, so he scrapped his notes and decided to speak to them from his heart.

"Stay in school," he said, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you so that you can achieve your dream."

At that moment, the lives of these students changed.

For the first time, they had hope.

One student later said, "I had something to look forward to something waiting for me."

Nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school.

You would have to understand that the average percentage of students that graduated from that school was previously 39%.

Maybe you have heard this before: It's not what we have in life, but who we have in life that matters.

Those students not only had someone who believed in them, but they had hope.

### **Lets Read Galatians 2:20. (NLT)**

*My old self has been crucified with Christ.*

*It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*

*So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

As followers of Jesus, we have hope because of the new life we have received by trusting in God.

When Jesus died on the cross, our old life, and the way we lived before we chose to follow Jesus, died with Jesus.

The new life we have received is possible because Jesus didn't remain dead – He defeated death and lives forever.

Now, we live with the mind of Christ and with His Spirit in us that helps us know how to live for Him.

We have eternal hope because of the eternal life that God has given to us through Jesus.

Our hope doesn't come from just being positive or trying to have a happy outlook.

Real hope comes from knowing that no matter what happens, God is with you and can give you the strength to endure whatever comes your way.

There are people all around you who have not experienced the hope that only God can give.

Someone once said, "There are no hopeless situations, only people who think hopelessly."

Are you aware of the people you see that are facing hopelessness?

Pray that God will open your eyes to see those who are hurting.

Why are they hurting? What's going on?

Statistics are showing that 1 out of 10 high school students will be diagnosed with depression by 18.

Research has also found that social media is making a significant contribution to why you and your peers are suffering.

When you compare yourself to others, seeing who has the most likes and followers, it can make you feel like you aren't good enough.

God doesn't measure us that way, and we shouldn't do that to ourselves or others.

The pressure to be perfect or have the perfect reputation and image can be overwhelming.

Sometimes it might seem easier to pull away from everyone and everything, but those can be the loneliest most desperate times that we experience.

God made us to be together with other people; He didn't design us to live life on our own.

Even God chose to create us for fellowship with Him, and He didn't have to.

In the times that you want to be by yourself, reach out to someone else.

If you see a friend that is struggling and suddenly disappears from the youth group, then send them a DM.

Be aware of those around you who need the hope that only God can give.

Often, in ministering and encouraging others, you are encouraged too!

No matter what you do in life, God's plan is always for you to share his love and hope with others.

No one is exempt.

Whether you become a doctor, stay-at-home-mom, alligator wrestler, or underwater basket weaver, part of your purpose in following Jesus is to encourage other people that God has a purpose for them too.

As we close this series, I want you to remember that you are so much more than you have probably thought you were before.

You are made in the image of God.

Your attitude influences how you look at yourself and others.

You have hope that extends beyond this life and into eternity.

You have a purpose, and God can use your life to share hope with others.

*Close in prayer.*

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS. Remember to join us at 11 am sharp on our TWCFUZION FB Page for our live small group.**

1. Does starting a new school year in the midst of this pandemic make you feel like your world has been turned upside down? Why or why not?
2. How would you react if someone offered to pay for your college degree?  
Would it change how hard you study right now? Why or why not?
3. What situations in your life have left you feeling hopeless?  
How did you overcome those feelings to move forward?
4. Why do you think 1 out of 10 high school students is depressed?  
What is the answer? How can they get help?
5. How can you reach out to a friend that is pulling away from everyone?  
What are some things you can do to encourage them?
6. What does sharing God's hope with others have to do with your purpose in life?
7. What is the best thing about you?

See ya next week!!