

Chapter 9 Discussion Questions

1. What are examples of truth claims hopeless people tell themselves?
2. Why should speaking the truth in love be a daily activity in contrast to a Sunday only activity?
3. What are reasons we must speak truth instead of giving opinions?
 - a. Can you share a time when someone was giving you a lot of opinions but little truth? Or maybe a time you've been guilty of doing that?
4. Why do we need hope?
5. On page 128, Scott Mehl writes: "To the extent that we encourage others to put hope in anything other than God himself, we will ultimately be feeding their hopelessness."
 - a. What is an example of a time when you mistakenly encouraged someone to put their hope in something besides God?
 - b. Did doing so ultimately relieve or feed that person's hopelessness?
6. On page 128, Mehl writes: "Giving hope begins with having hope."
 - a. What should our hope be in?
 - b. What are examples of false hope someone might give?
 - c. How do we get the "flame of hope" burning in us if we're not feeling hopeful?
7. Mehl encourages us to call people to hope in God's past, present and future grace (pp.128-133).
 - a. How can each of these three displays of grace bring hope to the struggling?
 - b. Which brings the most hope to you personally as you read this chapter?
 - c. Don't share in group, but who is someone in your life who needs to hope because of God's grace? Which aspect are you thinking of emphasizing to them?