

LIVING BY FAITH

Week 4 – JAN 26-31



New Hope | Small Groups



SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES:

SAFE GROUP: everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal resist the temptation to rescue them by giving advice. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: When conflict or sin issues arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Small Group Evening Schedule:

10min - Hangout time

10min - Welcome, Opening Prayer, Group Guidelines, Announcements

- **REMINDER:** Partner's Meeting this coming Sunday Feb. 2nd @ 5:30p

10min - Follow-up discussion about Sunday's Sermon

- What is one thing you learned? What challenged you?

40min - **Storying through scripture:**

As we move into a season of prayer and fasting we want God to increase our faith in what He is capable of doing. Pastor Jim taught on how faith is attached to our trust as God as provider. Today, we are going to build on that and continue to learn from Jesus' teaching on how to test our hearts and actions.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-24

DISCUSSION:

How have we been told in our culture that our value comes from what we have and how we appear? How has it affected you personally?

What does Jesus mean by "storing treasures in heaven"? What does that look like? _____

How can you tell what "master" you serve? _____

READ: Matthew 6:25-34

What stands out to you in this passage? Discuss.

How does worry reveal what we actually treasure in life? _____

Is there something that you find yourself worrying about? How can you give that to God in faith and trust Him to take care of it? _____

How are you doing with your commitments during our season of prayer and fasting? Share with the group so you can be encouraged and pray for one another in this season.

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

(one person write requests and email or text to the rest of the group)