

LIVING BY FAITH

Week 6 – FEB 9-15



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

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

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

40min - **Storying through scripture:**

As we have finished our time of prayer and fasting we want to continue to pursue God with growing faith. Encourage each other and share testimony of what God is doing in your life. On Sunday Pastor Nikki taught on Rahab's life and how God changed her name because of her faith. Today, we are going to talk about the power of our identity in Christ.

DISCUSSION:

What are some things in your life that you'd say has defined your identity? (Good and bad)

What labels or names have you been called or you've called yourself?

SCRIPTURE: Read Ephesians 2:1-10

According to this passage list all of the words that describe who we were BEFORE we had Christ? _____

Do any of these words connect with you or how you've struggled?

According to this passage list all of the words that describe who we are now and what we have from God because we HAVE Christ? _____

Which of these gifts from Christ do you struggle with accepting from him? Why?

It's important and freeing to fully accept your TRUE identity which is only found in Jesus Christ. What do you need to confess and release to truly live into that identity? _____

READ 1 Peter 2:9-10

You were chosen by God to his child. Fully accept who you are...

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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