

# LIVING BY FAITH

## Week 7 – FEB 23-28



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:**

On Sunday Sam taught on Gideon's story and how God challenged him to step into action for God's people and led them to victory over their enemies. It required Gideon to have faith in God each step of the way. Today, we are going to continue to look at Gideon's life.

**SCRIPTURE: Read Judges 6:1-16**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Why were the Israelites living in fear from the Midianites? What led them to be in hiding?

Have you had seasons in your life where you were hiding from God? What was the cause of that season?

What was Gideon's response to the Angel of the LORD?

Have you ever felt like God asked you to do something that you didn't think you could do? Share with the group.

**SCRIPTURE: Read Judges 7:1-8**

Why did God tell Gideon that there were too many men to fight?

Has there been any times in your life where you tried to do something God asked you, but you had your own plan for how to do it rather than waiting on the Lord? Share.

Gideon started in a place of fear, but ended in place of victory through God. How has fear held you back? What can you do this week to move from fear to faith in God?

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**READ 2 Timothy 1:6-9a**

Live in the power of the Spirit of God and do not let fear control you actions. God has good things for your life!

**10min - Share prayer requests & pray.**

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

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