

LIVING BY FAITH

Week 10 – March 16-21



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:**

This past Sunday Pastor Nikki taught on the difference between control and surrender. We so often try to keep things in our control in such a way that steals from the beautiful things that God actually wants in our lives. Today we are going to go deeper into the difference between control and surrender.

DISCUSSION:

Nikki shared the "circle of control" illustration on Sunday. What is outside of your circle that you are currently trying to control? Be honest and share with the group.

SCRIPTURE: Read Luke 10:38-42

What do you think Martha was feeling when Jesus came to her house? How would you describe her from this passage?

Martha told Jesus what to do about her sister. Have you ever told God what He should do about someone in your life? How does that show a controlling nature?

How did Jesus reply to Martha? What was a better choice?

READ: Proverbs 3:5-8

According to this passage, what do we need to do in order to move from "control" in our lives? List each of the actions.

Why are these important in the steps to surrendering to God?

What benefits do we experience from surrendering and trusting God? List each on from the passage.

What do you need to surrender to God today? Where do you need to stop controlling others in your life?

Who do you really put your trust in, God or yourself?

What can you do this week to live a surrender life?

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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