

EPHESIANS

WEEK 1 – April 13-19



New Hope | Small Groups

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS WALKING IN YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

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:

We are going to be reading through the whole book of Ephesians through this series. There is so much truth to unpack in each chapter that we will be

staying focused on one main idea during each of our Small Group gatherings. Today, you will read the first part of chapter 1 and pull out the character of God and what He has done for us.

SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 1:1-14

HEAD, HEART, & HAND QUESTIONS:

Who are the characters in this passage? List all of them.

List everything that God has done for us listed in this passage:

Understanding that all of God's qualities are important, which ones from the list above, speaks to *you* the most? Why?

How can you show God that you are thankful for these things?

READ: Ephesians 1:17-19a

CHALLENGE: Pray Paul's prayer from this passage over your life this week. Pray for our church family as well.

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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