

EPHESIANS

WEEK 2 – April 20-26



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 affecting 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 reading through the whole book of Ephesians through this series. There is so much to unpack in each chapter that we will be focusing on one main idea during each of our Small Group gatherings. Today, you will read the last half of chapter 1 and look at what it means for us today.

READ – Ephesians 1:3, 15-17

What is the difference between a physical blessing and a spiritual blessing?

How is Knowing God different than Knowing About God?

READ: Ephesians 1:18

When have you placed your hope in something temporary?

Describe eternity and what you think it will be like to live in the New Heaven and Earth for eternity.

READ: Ephesians 1:19-20

When have you relied on you own self-sufficiency rather than God's power?

When have you experienced God's power?

READ: Ephesians 1:21-23

Jesus is above all things and has full authority over all things. What does that mean for us as believers and followers of Him?

CHALLENGE: Live each day remembering we have God's resurrection power within us to fully enjoy His blessings and to be witnesses to those around us of the hope we have in Him.

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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