

EPHESIANS

WEEK 5 – May 18 - 24



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:

Today, as we continue our study of the book of Ephesians, we will read the first half of chapter 3 and look at "the mystery of Christ", and Paul's calling to take the mystery to the Gentiles.

READ: Ephesians :1-5, 1 Peter 1:10-12

What clues to the mystery of Christ were given in the Old Testament?

READ: Ephesians 3:6

Discuss how the Church is God's great mystery.

Who is the mystery revealed to?

READ: Ephesians 3:7-9

Why does Paul call himself "the least of all the Lord's people"?

Describe the riches of God's grace.

READ: Ephesians 3:10-13

How does our Faith in Jesus give us the Freedom and Confidence to approach God?

What does Paul mean that his sufferings are for the glory of the Ephesians?

CHALLENGE: Are you choosing to trust only in God's word and work in Faith?

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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