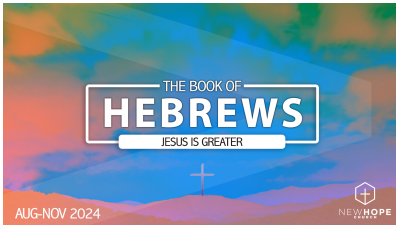


HEBREWS

Week 7 - SEPT 22-28



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
(It is good to review the guidelines on the left once a month)

40min - **Scripture: Read Hebrews 4:11-5:3**

Read the passage out loud together as a group. Perhaps have everyone or a few people read a couple of verses at a time through the passage. Pastor Tim taught on God's desire for us to keep growing and the 6 foundational truths listed in the passage.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Was there any specific thing that you connected with from the message this Sunday? What point made the most impact for you?

Is there anything you'd like to go deeper in today that you heard?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

According to the author, what are the spiritual deficiencies of this letter's recipients?

According to 5:11-14, what are the primary marks of spiritual maturity?

How can you improve in your ability to use God's Word as a standard by which to distinguish good from evil?

How can you practice using God's Word for discernment this week? Think of at least one decision you are facing that requires discernment.

Read verse 13 in a few different translations. What insights do the differences in wording give you about the author's statement?

What does the author mean by "solid food" (5:12, 14)? Why is "solid food" only for the mature? Why can't infant Christians handle it?

The phrase distinguish good from evil (5:14) refers to the ability to discern what is morally good or doctrinally correct from what is contrary to law (divine or human) or truth. The idea is akin to the sense of taste, by which a child grows through practice to distinguish good food from spoiled. Why is this ability vital for believers living in a corrupt world?

How can you train yourself to distinguish good from evil?

How can you keep yourself from being stifled in your Christian growth?

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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