

COMPASSION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10-16



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

5min - Welcome, Opening Prayer, Group Guidelines, Announcements
(It is good to review the guidelines on the left once a month)

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?

40min – **Main Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46**

Today we are going to read the passage in sections with discussion time after each part. Go ahead and read out loud together as a group. Perhaps have everyone or a few people read a couple of verses at a time through the passage. Today we are going to talk about God's heart of the poor and needy around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

List all of the needs the King described in verses 35 & 36. What would someone feel who experiencing these things?

Was there any time in your life that you experienced any of these things?

What did the King call those who experience these things (vs. 40)

What blessing was given to those who responded to these needs?

How does the king respond to those that ignore the needs around them? What is their outcome in this passage?

READ Matthew 25:14-30

In this section of Matthew 25, what is Jesus trying teach us?

How important is it for us to steward our resources (time, money, gifts, abilities)?

What are you doing to steward your resources as a good and faithful servant? How are you blessing the poor and needy around you? What can you do this week?

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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