

A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

Week 2 – Dec. 15-21



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:

As we celebrate what God has done for us this Christmas season, we will be digging into four key words that are gifts that Jesus brought us. Today we are going to do what we did last week to dig into the scriptures together. We are going to do the S.O.A.P. method as a group with the verses below and learn from one another as the Spirit leads.

Go through each verse one at a time. Have different people read the verse 2 to 3 times out loud then go through the SOAP steps. It may also help to read the verses before and after the verses listed to get the context as well. Get through as many as you'd like during your group.

Scripture – Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read and look for any specific words or phrases that stand out and write them down.

Observation – What do you notice about the verses? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you? Share with the group & discuss.

Application – How does this verse apply to your own life. What do you need to do today because of the passage?

Prayer – What prayer request do you have to bring to the group and how can you pray for each other?

SCRIPTURES:

Luke 2:13-14

John 16:33

John 14:25-27

Matthew 11:28-30

2 Thessalonians 3:16

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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