

LIVING BY FAITH

Week 8 – March 2-8



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

10min - Follow-up discussion about Sunday's Sermon

- What is one thing you learned? What challenged you?

45min - **Storying through scripture:**

As a part of the message on Sunday, Pastor Tim taught on the importance of putting on the armor of God. We are strong because of the power of God. It is He who fights for us, and the fight is not against one another but against evil. We are our strongest when we realize the fight is not against my brother or sister, but against evil, and we are strongest when we allow God's power to fight for us and through us as we put on full armor of God. Today you will read the passage in Ephesians and go through the questions below together.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-20

HEAD, HEART, & HAND QUESTIONS:

List all of the parts of the spiritual armor Paul shares in this passage:

Write down how the enemy can attack us if we are missing each part of the armor? What does each protect or fight against?

Describe a part of your life that you sense the enemies working against you? Paul tells us to not be unaware of his schemes but wise against his plans.

What part of your spiritual armor is weakest right now?

READ: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

CHALLENGE: How will you commit to putting on the armor of God this week and walk in obedience to God's Word in your life?

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

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