

# Nothing New Under The Sun

## Week 4: Life is Better Together

### ICEBREAKER

What is the best team or group you have ever been a part of?

### INTRODUCTION

No one is an island and we are not designed to go through life alone. God created us to be part of families and tribes that work together to accomplish the tasks He desires for His people. This week we will focus on God's desire for us to accomplish great things as a team and how we can work better together to go far in our faith.

### READ |

Life is a team sport and just like in sports we are called to fill different positions based on our talents and how God made us. While the roles of each position may be different, they work together in the hopes of helping your team win. As we learn about our teammates and they learn about us, we find ways to compliment each other and make our team stronger. Living as a Christian is very similar as we work together to glorify God.

*But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.*  
--1 Corinthians 12:24-27 (NIRV)

We are not meant to compete against other Christians, rather we are meant to play our position to the best of our ability in support of how God is moving in our communities. When we move together for God's glory there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

**Discuss a time you worked as a team to get a collective win. What is one thing you can do together with other Christians for God's glory in your community?**

## READ |

The best part about being on Team Jesus is that we are playing for the greatest coach of all time. There is nothing that cannot be accomplished with the encouragement, love and supernatural power we receive from trusting in God. One of the greatest examples of this is found in the book of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

*But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. --Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NIV)*

God appointed Nehemiah as the captain of the team effort to rebuild the walls. He gave Nehemiah the courage to ask for help for the benefit of the team. When he got to Jerusalem, even with God and the King's blessing, he didn't immediately start building. Instead he took the time to walk around the walls and city to better understand the opponent and his team to determine the best strategy.

When it was finally time to start building, everyone knew their roles and used their skills to work together to complete the tasks needed for the wall to come together. As God's team started to pull away the enemy changed its tactics, as it always will, to try and throw Nehemiah and his team off track. However, with the encouragement and strength of God the builders adapted to overcome the enemy's resistance.

*...Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, --Nehemiah 4:17 (NIV)*

In the end, the team, led by Nehemiah was able to accomplish the impossible and rebuild the walls in just 52 days. This would not be possible if it wasn't for God empowering leaders and using everyone in their strengths to identify and fix problems for the benefit of the team's mission. We too must ask God for the discernment to guide us and our leaders in our skills and abilities to accomplish missions for His glory.

**Discuss a time that you had to rely on God and others to overcome adversity and complete a task you couldn't have done on your own. How did you grow from it?**

## READ |

Nehemiah was not the only time that God appointed someone to lead a mission that many considered impossible. Jesus was called upon to start a movement to reconcile people with God based on a relationship of grace, mercy, sacrifice and service. Much of Christ's mission to save the world would be done after He played His part. That meant

He needed to raise up others to carry the mission forward and build communities for God.

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* --Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

At New Hope Windward we are committed to furthering Jesus' mission by raising up disciples to build their own community around God. One of the most important ways we do this is through Small Group. Meeting outside of church to break bread and praise God with other believers is key to living a fulfilled and God led life.

Invite all those you want to have better and more rewarding relationships to be in a Small Group with you. Whether it is family, friends or co-workers you can never have too much community and you never know how God will use them to do amazing things.

**What Small Group can you create or join to better connect with others? How can church help?**

### **WHAT WILL YOU DO**

- Ask for help and pray to God for encouragement in your ongoing team projects at home, work or church.
- Evaluate the teams in your life to see if their skills are being used appropriately to help each mission.
- Invite others to Small Group or start a new group to build more community around Christ in your life.

**PRAYER:** God, thank You for making me a part of something greater than myself. Thank You for giving me abilities that can be used to further Your kingdom and help the communities in my life. Give me the courage, strength and discernment to help and lead with those around me. Bless my small group and lead me into any new groups for Your glory. In Jesus' name Amen.

## **READ GOD'S WORD DAILY using S.O.A.P.**

### **Day 1:**

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*  
Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

### **Day 2:**

*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*  
Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

### **Day 3:**

*Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.*  
1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

### **Day 4:**

*May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other.*  
Romans 15:5 (TLB)

### **Day 5:**

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*  
1 John 1:7 (ESV)

## TIPS FOR ONLINE SMALL GROUP

1. **HOSTING A SMALL GROUP MEETING ON ZOOM.** If you are interested in hosting a small group on zoom through New Hope Windward, let us know. Our small group team will help you get started. Zoom training is available.
2. **EMAIL INVITE.** Ensure to send out a calendar invite with the meeting details and how to connect to the meeting platform on zoom.
3. **REMINDER DURING THE WEEK.** Keep everyone in your group connected by sending a reminder during the week of your upcoming small group meeting.
4. **START ON TIME & STICK TO YOUR TIME SCHEDULE.** For your scheduled meetings, it's recommended to get started within 5 minutes of your scheduled start time. Most small group meetings are held for about 60 minutes.
5. **ZOOM'S BEST PRACTICE.** Familiarize yourself with the Zoom features on your electronic device. It is helpful for everyone to know where the mute button is located. Ask the attendees to self-mute to avoid environmental noise when someone else is talking & sharing. Doing this will help with the flow of your SG discussion time.
6. **DOWNLOAD ZOOM APP.** In order to participate in the Online Small Group, download the Zoom App from your iPhone or Android. You may also download the Zoom App from your laptop PC or iPad device.

## TIPS TO IN-PERSON GROUP

1. **START & FINISH ON TIME.** Doing this will show your small group you value their time.
2. **BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE.** Uncomfortable silences are bound to happen. It's okay! A long pause during a group discussion can be powerful. A *pause* gives space for quieter people to break into the conversation; silence allows people to figure out exactly what they would like to say.
3. **CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT.** Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: "What is said in small group, stays in small group." **Nothing, nobody, never...** *"Share nothing, to nobody, never"* outside of the group.
4. **MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in person small group gathering.
5. **AVOID TALKING or TEACHING TOO MUCH.** Small groups are designed for everyone to share and grow together.
6. **ASK FOR HELP.** The Small Group Ministry is here to help. Email [smallgroups@nhww.org](mailto:smallgroups@nhww.org) to ask any questions, request training or other assistance for your Small Group.