

TALK IT OVER

All Are Welcome

ICEBREAKER (Start Talking)

Do you enjoy hosting people at your home? Why or why not?

INTRODUCTION (Start Thinking)

Every relationship begins with an invitation. While they can be uncomfortable to start, relationships give our life purpose and meaning. This week we will learn about the power of inviting people to church to meet Christ this Christmas.

READ (Start Sharing)

The right invitation can change a life forever. *Read Matthew 4:18-20.* Would you have followed? Discuss a time that you surprised someone with an invitation or were surprised by one yourself. How did it turn out? What did you learn from it?

READ (Start Sharing)

Faith helps us through the times when we don't know what to do or say. *Read Mark 4:30-32.* We act in faith to plant the seeds of salvation when we invite others to meet Christ. Describe a time when a small act or word made a lasting impact on your life. How does it feel knowing that the seed of a simple invitation can grow a mighty tree of faith?

READ (Start Sharing)

We often feel the need to convince people of the reasons they need to come to church. *Read John 1:45-46.* "Come and see for yourself" can often speak truth better than any of our explanations. Describe an experience you had in church or small group that convicted you in your faith. How can you use the power of "come and see" to invite others to church?

WHAT WILL YOU DO (Start Doing)

Pray and commit to inviting the unchurched people in your life to Christmas Service at New Hope Windward.

PRAYER (Start Praying)

Heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming us into your family and giving us your word to be strong and courageous as we invite others to join us this Christmas. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

Day 1:

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

John 14:2 (ESV)

Day 2:

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 (NLT)

Day 3:

He said to them, "Come and see." They followed Him and saw where He lived. They stayed with Him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

John 1:39 (NLV)

Day 4:

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Matthew 4:19-20 (ESV)

Day 5:

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

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. ASK FOR HELP.** The Small Group Ministry is here to help. Email shawn@nhww.org to ask any questions, request training or other assistance for your Small Group.