

TALK IT OVER

THE BLESSINGS OF INVITATIONS AND FELLOWSHIP

ICEBREAKER (Start Talking)

How did you start going to NHW? Did someone invite you?

READ (Start Sharing)

In a world increasingly filled with wants and desires that demand our attention, we can easily be distracted and take our eyes off of God. Read **Hebrews 10:25***. As believers, we are to meet regularly and encourage one another and grow in our faith in God. **How has meeting regularly in your small group been helpful to you?**

READ (Start Sharing)

Many have heard of Jesus but do not know Him. When we invite people to join us in church or small group we are not asking them to join a religion, we are asking them to start a relationship with the risen and living God. Read **John 1:45-46****. "Come and see" is a great tool to invite non-believers to meet Jesus through His Word and people. **Discuss your invitation to church or small group and how it impacted your faith walk. Is there someone you can invite?**

READ (Start Sharing)

Sometimes people drift away from the Lord and stop going to church. Read **Psalms 122:21*****. Like the ancient Jews, we should invite them back to church to rejoice in worship of our connection with God and fellow believers. **Share a time when coming to church brought joy and support back into your day/life? (Ex. Sermon, worship, prayer that helped)**

WHAT WILL YOU DO (Start Doing)

Invite someone to church or small group to fellowship through our *Relational Vampire* series starting 8-20-23!

PRAYER (Start Praying)

Dear Lord, thank You for those who invited me to meet You at church and for my growth in this small group. I pray for those I will invite this week to come to church on Sunday and to join our small group. Soften their hearts to respond. Amen!

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

Day 1:

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

-*Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

Day 2:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

-Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Day 3:

"Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip."

-John 1:45-46 (NIV)**

Day 4:

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

-*Psalm 122:1 (NIV)**

Day 5:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

-Acts 2:42 (NIV)

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 to ask any questions, request training or other assistance for your Small Group.