

TALK IT OVER

PERSISTENT FAITH IN GOD

ICEBREAKER (Start Talking)

What is the least favorite part of your daily routine?

READ (Start Sharing)

Patience and persistence are biblical virtues that are at odds with the instant satisfaction society we live in today. Read **Luke 18:1***. We are taught throughout the bible to draw strength from the lessons of men and women of faith who endured and trusted in the Lord, to help us do the same.

How has staying in the Word and learning from its wisdom helped you to be more patient and dedicated?

READ (Start Sharing)

Jeremiah and Baruch demonstrate the importance of persistence by faithfully obeying God's will to accurately preserve God's message. Read **Jeremiah 36:32****. Even in the face of daunting challenges and setbacks from those around them they stayed faithful to fulfill the prophetic calling of God. **Discuss a time you had a major set back and how God grew you and your faith through the struggle.**

READ (Start Sharing)

Another great example of persistence in the bible is Job, who lost his wealth, health, and family while facing seemingly unending trials. All the while he remained faithful to God. Read **James 1:12*****. Job endures and receives a profound encounter with God and blessings. **How has your faith in God helped you through loss and major trials in your life?**

WHAT WILL YOU DO (Start Doing)

Stay in the Word, don't quit, stay steadfast and faithful to God, his church, daily devotional with him and your small group while you wait for an encounter from God.

PRAYER (Start Praying)

God, thank You for these examples of being patient and enduring. Give me strength in my trials. Help me to focus on what are you're trying to change in me instead of grumbling about what's happening to me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Day 1:

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ***Luke 18:1 (NIV)**

Day 2:

"So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them." ****Jeremiah 36:32 (NIV)**

Day 3:

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

*****James 1:12 (ESV)**

Day 4:

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."
Hebrews 10:36 (ESV)

Day 5:

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:9 (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. 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.