



NEW
HOPE
WINDWARD

the
END
TIMES

WHO MAKES
IT TO
HEAVEN?

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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SMALL GROUP TIPS

- 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. LISTEN WITHOUT FIXING AND TEACHING.** People desperately need a safe place to share their thoughts and be real with others. Give people space to talk without trying to fix them, correct their thoughts or teach. Choose the relationship over the desire to cast judgement or prove your point over theirs, to be "right".
- 6. BE REAL, AUTHENTIC & TRANSPARENT ABOUT WEAKNESSES & STRUGGLES.** Some people in your group may be new to faith or new to small group and will not feel comfortable answering discussion questions. They show up and listen in, but don't share what's really on their minds. Create an environment for honest and vulnerable answers. Share with a level of vulnerability that sets the tone and gives permission for everyone— regardless of spiritual maturity—to respond authentically.
- 7. NO GUILT, NO SHAME.** This series is not meant to guilt or shame anyone into doing anything.

WARNING

This series is designed to foster conversation amongst believers on a topic that is often considered taboo and uncomfortable. While literal interpretation is the rule in most other bible books, it's the opposite with Revelation, where symbolism is the rule and literalism is the exception.

It's easy to get carried away trying to interpret the symbolism of Revelation, but we need to be cautious. Even after 2,000 years, Bible scholars still aren't sure of what everything in Revelation represents. Still, the ultimate themes of End Times theology are God being in charge and good ultimately triumphing over evil.

Some of the content in this series may trigger you to preach your End Times beliefs. Please do not veer into topics that invite judgement and division. We ask that you not debate, argue or justify your beliefs of the rapture, tribulation or armageddon. Whether you are a premillennial, postmillennial or amillennial believer, the most important thing is that Jesus will return and when he does he will be looking for those who know him and are following him.

We pray you enjoy what you learn and grow closer to Christ and his family.

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. --Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)



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