



NEW HOPE

SMALL GROUPS

Connect - Engage - Serve

“People in Process” Week of February 9th, 2020

Connecting -with your group

1. Icebreaker question: Who has had the biggest impact on the person you have become? Why?
2. Take some time to discuss how your week went. In what ways did you use the gifts and talents that God has given you to help someone else in the name of Jesus? Did you have to overcome any of the barriers (“me first”, perfectionism, or stuff) to make yourself more available to serve God or others?

Engaging- with the Word of God and others

This week we're wrapping up our message series on What's the Purpose. We'll be focusing on influencing others towards a relationship with Christ.

1. Pastor Russ shared that the word “evangelism” causes us **stress**. How does the thought or idea of “evangelism” make you feel?
2. If you believed that every interaction you had with a non-Christian is a potential act of evangelism, how would that change the way you live out your faith? Discuss positive and negative aspects of your daily interactions (i.e., on your commute, in your home, at your workplace, etc.) Think about people you interact with- can you look back and see that you were directly involved in the process of evangelism? Discuss with the group.
3. Read Matthew 13:3-9.
Matthew 13:3-9 (GN) That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then He told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.’

Jesus describes four types of soil in this passage. What do each of those four types of soils look like in today's society?
4. Refer back to the seven stages a person normally goes through in the process of becoming a Christian:
 - 1) Awareness of a messenger- meet a **follower of Jesus**
 - 2) Like the **messenger**
 - 3) Develop an awareness of the Bible's **relevance** to life by watching the messenger
 - 4) Develop a **positive** attitude toward Scripture
 - 5) Hear & begin to understand the **gospel**, the good news about Christ
 - 6) Recognize a personal **need**, and need what the messenger has & has been talking about
 - 7) Put the faith in Christ, become a **follower of Jesus**

In your own life, can you give a few examples of your spiritual journey as you moved through these seven stages?

5. The process of evangelism involves **lots of people** along the way. Who could you partner with in a strategic way to help you reach your non-Christian friends?
6. **Group application:** Refer to the continuum handout. List two or three non-Christians that God has placed in your life that you would like to see come to know Christ. Where would you put them on the continuum? What are some strategies to move them closer to making a decision to follow Christ? How can you involve other members of your small group in this process?
7. Pastor Russ shared that one of the greatest ways to demonstrate you care for someone is to **show** & **share** Christ and encourage that person to “**come**” & “**see**” what Jesus can do for them. What are some upcoming events at New Hope that you can practice “come” & “see?”

Serving- your group through prayer and care

Take time to share praises and prayer requests. Commit to praying for each other to find ways to influence others towards a relationship with Christ. Pray for the people that the other members of your group have placed on the continuum.