

Hope is Here 1 Samuel 17

Welcome back for week three of Community Groups! Let's play a game of **Community Group Guideline Jeopardy**. The newest person to the group will begin reading a description for one guideline at a time. The rest of the members of the group will buzz in with the answer in the form of a question. ("What is confidentiality?") Once you get one right you can't answer again until everyone gets one right.

Last week we listed out one thing each of us could do to help us choose faith and not doubt. Share with the group how things went.

You were also challenged to tell the story of the withered fig tree to someone this week. If you did it talk about that experience. If you didn't, talk about why.

1 Samuel 17:40-50. Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story, retell the story as a group and then read the story from your Bibles.

- What picture do you see in your mind when you read about David and Goliath approaching each other?
- What did Goliath say? Why wasn't that surprising? What did David say? Why was that surprising?
- What was David's source of hope? What did he mean in verse 47?
- In spite of the knowledge we have about God why is it sometimes easy for us to lose hope?
- As a group make a list of 10 things that we can do to recognize that hope is here even when a large problem is in front of us.

Life Application:

1. Each person pick one thing from the list you just created that you will focus on this week.
2. Tell someone the story of David and Goliath this week.



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.