

Community Group

Week of October 16

Jeremiah 18:1-12

Today's big idea: God redeems us.

- What is the best deal you ever got on something you bought?
- List out the Community Group Guidelines as a group. Start with the one you always forget.

Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Jeremiah at the potter's house.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Jeremiah 18:1-12 in the Bible.
- Jeremiah was sent to an actual potter with actual clay. How does that impact your understanding of what God was communicating?
- Who is in control of the outcomes according to this story? Why?
- Is God mean, loving, or something else?
- How do you feel about God changing his mind?

As We Go

- To be clear, not every hard time in our lives is a punishment from God. What else could cause hard times in our lives?
- How have you experienced the punishment of God for sin in your life?
- How have you experienced the redemption of God from repentance in your life? And what is repentance anyway?
- Is there something you need to repent for now? As you close in prayer start with a quiet time and pray silently for the repentance.

Upcoming Events – see newsletter for all the details

- October is Pastor Appreciation Month!
- HFC Vision Conference – Friday 10/28 and Sunday 10/30 (same presentation)
- TXM Annual Assembly – 11/4 and 11/5 volunteers needed
- Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due Sunday, Nov. 6th



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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.