

# Community Group

Week of October 30

## Jeremiah 37:12-17, 38:4-13

Today's big idea: Why do bad things happen to good people?

- Community Group Guidelines help create space for good things to happen with the group. Review those together as a group.
- Have one person say something good about themselves. Then have someone in the group say something good about that same person. Go around until everyone has had an opportunity to say something about themselves.

## Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Jeremiah's hardships.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Jeremiah 37:12-17, 38:4-13 in the Bible.
- Why would the guard and the officials assume that Jeremiah was deserting to the Babylonians?
- What temptations might Jeremiah have dealt with in light of King Zedekiah's request?
- If you were Jeremiah, what would go through your mind before and after you were rescued from the cistern?

## As We Go

- Talk about a time in which you were struggling. What did you think about God during that time?
- What helped you trust Jesus around the time of that situation and what didn't help you trust him?
- What are things that we can do to help others in their times of struggle especially in regard to questions about God they might have?
- Share prayer requests with one another and also pray for the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform how we think especially during difficult times.

Upcoming Events – see newsletter for all the details

- Nov. 4 & 5 - TXM Annual Assembly – volunteers needed
- Sat. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Shield Bearers Family Fall Festival
- Sun. Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due!
- Sun. Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - Discipleship Training begins after worship! (only 3 weeks)



[hfcog.org](http://hfcog.org)

## 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.