

Small Group Notes based on The Spirit 5

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: Tensions in Going Deeper.
- Do you want more of God? A deeper experience of the things of God? Greater fruit and greater spiritual gifts?
 - I hope so! But, can you think of things that could go wrong with this?
 - Classic problem: the group seeks out the things of the Spirit, eventually something goes wrong, so individuals or leaders reject the things of the Spirit.
 - How do we grow in the Spirit without having this happen?
- One of Good Hope's Core Values is "Creating a safe, free and loving environment where the Spirit can move."
 - That sounds real nice too. But there is a tension between "safe" and "free."
 - Love is the only thing that can relieve that tension.
- This dynamic is dealt with in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14.
 - Chapter 12 talks about gifts of the Spirit. We read parts of that chapter.
 - Chapter 13 talks about fruit of the Spirit, specifically love. We read about that.
 - Chapter 14 deals with some practical tensions that come from Spiritual gifts operating during church services.
- Lessons from 1 Corinthians 14:
 - There are goals for the church to attain to through the expressions of the Holy Spirit:
 - First: we want the presence of God! **1 Corinthians 14:24-25.**
 - Second: we want individual people benefited. **1 Corinthians 14:3.**
 - Third: we want the church strengthened. **1 Corinthians 14:26.**
 - That sounds so nice! But there are tensions too!
 - First: people may think we're crazy! **1 Corinthians 14:23.**
 - Second: people may be alienated. **1 Corinthians 14:11-12.**
 - Third: benefit self but not others. **1 Corinthians 14:16-17.**
 - Forth: I don't even know what's going on! **1 Corinthians 14:14.**
 - So, what do we do? Here are some conclusions from this chapter.
 - First: tongues edify you, prophecy edifies others. **1 Corinthians 14:4.**
 - Both are needed. So: **1 Corinthians 14:18-19.**
 - Second: have some discernment. **1 Corinthians 14:29.**
 - Third: feed your spirit and your mind. **1 Corinthians 14:15.**
 - Finally: here is the bottom line. **1 Corinthians 14:39-40.**
 - But some may say "I don't speak in tongues!" Ok, what should you do then?
 - First, don't hate those who do. Follow the way of love.
 - Second, be open but not pressured. You aren't a second class believer, but there are probably more spiritual opportunities available for you than what you see.
 - Third, love God...worship, praise, honor, serve. Aggressively love God!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!