

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Vision Fall 2016: Rise Up

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.
- **Vision:**
 - Good Hope's Vision Statement is "Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out."
 - Have you heard this before? What does this mean to you?
- **This week Reach Out:**
 - A real relationship with the living God will call you to action!
- Have you noticed that this world could use some change for the better?
 - How you react to that realization will impact your whole life.
 - Options: get angry, hide, blame, hurt people, crumble, become selfish, fixate on the wrongs, worry, etc.
 - Jesus saw the same thing. Here is how he reacted: **Matthew 9:35-38**.
- Reach Out: A real relationship with the living God will call you to action.
 - This call to action is described several ways in the Scripture. Today we will look primarily at "bearing fruit."
- How do the following Scriptures indicate that bearing fruit is important to God?
 - **John 15:1-4**
 - **Matthew 21:43**
 - Look back in the chapter. How did Jesus say this to?
 - What did Jesus mean in v43?
 - They had no idea they were bad at following God. (Saul) Don't be like that!
- To bear fruit for the Kingdom of God you need to get good at living God's ways.
 - That's why the order of the Vision Statement.
 - The first place you bear fruit for the Kingdom of God is within yourself!
 - Fruit of the Spirit from **Galatians 6:19-26**.
 - God's plan for your life is less about what you do and more about the person you are.
 - Then you will see clearly enough to help others.
- What is fruit?
 - It is as simple as making a difference for the Kingdom of God.
 - Mostly it is informal.
 - Internal spiritual growth. This can be very intangible.
 - If you just see something that needs doing and help out. Fruit!
 - You see someone who needs a friend and you connect. Fruit!
 - Tommy Barnett: Find A Need and Fill It!
 - But there is the formal too.
 - We need missionaries and pastors.
 - We need ushers, prayer teams, and kids workers.
 - There is seemingly no end to this!! Mow and snow, cleaning, etc.
 - Let's make bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God really simple... **John 15:5**.
 - From this verse, what are some things you can do to ensure you will bear fruit?
 - Abide in the vine. God will show you His ways and make you someone who makes a difference!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!