

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Vision 2 Winter 2016

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**
- We have a vision statement at Good Hope! Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out.
 - This is our compass. This is our reason to be. I preach on this often!
 - Leading a church is like herding cats...unless you have clear vision!
- This week: Putting Faith into Action
- Discuss the following Scriptures relating to putting faith into action.
 - James has a lot to say about this!
 - **James 1:22-25**
 - So, the deceived person listens to the word but doesn't do it. (v22)
 - How are they deceived? (v23-25) They think they are someone that they are not. They hear about "new creation" but they aren't one, etc.
 - **James 2:14-18 and James 4:17**
 - Jesus had things to say about this topic too:
 - **Matthew 7:24-27**
 - Don't miss the "puts them into practice" part of v24! Some people substitute in "and really admires them" instead, but it doesn't work!
 - The storms happen either way!
 - Somehow people think Jesus promised no storms. Not true.
 - The promise is that we can become the types of people who can both survive and thrive in a difficult world! **John 16:33.**
- So, how do we put faith into practice at Good Hope? Somewhat intangible...but...
 - Reach Up:
 - Holy moments. Respect the hour and 15. Worship. One minute blessing. 365 Initiative. SOAP. Prayer at the altar.
 - Rise UP:
 - Into the unified Body of Christ! CMA. Assistant Presbyter. Two church boards. Feb 12th Fellowship mtg. Small groups – the plan! Women's Group. Meal Ministry.
 - Reach Out:
 - Missions: 10% List. Jamaica. Radio program. Coaching. GH Got Talent. Aged Min offering. Missions Convention this summer. Continued growth – campuses? Church Plants? Rural Network?
- Discuss the story of Uzzah.
 - Everyone thought things were great but they had deceived themselves.
 - **1 Chronicles 13:6-11.**
 - The error isn't clear unless you know that God specifically told how the Ark was to be transported: with poles and a dozen men. (notice they carried it after that, 1 Chron 15:2)
 - Have you ever felt that a command of God was unnecessary, so you did something else?
 - Sometimes we know what God wants us to do, but we don't want to or we don't understand why we have to. Doing it anyway is faith.
 - What are some ways you can walk by faith in this way?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!