

## Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Vision 1 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.
  - Have you seen a lack of vision in the Body of Christ? How about a group with clear vision?
- Reach Up!
  - A real relationship with the living God is available to you!
  - Sadly, many people miss this. Even church people.
    - People can serve the wrong things as God. Such as money.
      - Money makes a great servant, but a horrible god!
    - Some subtle things can substitute for a relationship with God:
      - Church, theology/legalism, pastor/personality.
      - Those can be good, but don't let them satisfy your "relationship with God" need.
  - **Hebrews 4:14-16**
    - Amazing stuff. This is in the Sabbath chapter. (**Hebrews 4:9**)
    - In v16 the "throne of grace" is likely a reference to the "mercy seat."
      - The mercy seat was the cover of the arc of the covenant.
      - The mercy seat was where the presence of God was.
      - The mercy seat was in the Holy of Holies.
      - We get to go there. Try to understand that for real. How does that work?
- Rise Up!
  - A real relationship with the living God will change you!
    - If you enter the Holy of Holies and you will never be the same!
  - This is Good Hope's deal: be getting better. Rise Up!
    - Do you understand everything about God? Then don't limit God to your understanding.
      - God will do miracles in your life to help you rise up if you stay connected with Him!!
  - **Ephesians 4:1-3**
    - Those three verses will keep you busy for the rest of your life!!!
    - Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
      - Rise up out of the mess into who you were created to be. Apply that concept to Ephesians 4:2-3. What would you rise up out of to rise up into those things?
- Reach Out!
  - A real relationship with the living God will call you to action.
    - Rise up out of complacency into service to your Lord!
  - **1 Corinthians 9:19-27** (emphasis v24-27)
    - "I" is in there a lot. We wouldn't go for that! (But it's in the Bible!)
    - Gifts vs rewards. We do not earn the gift of salvation, but rewards...
    - Paul describes strict training, trying to win the prize.
    - Paul doesn't fight the air. Too many Christians are shadow boxing instead of joining the fight. Don't be like that.
  - So, where are you?
    - Do you need to reach up? Rise up? Reach out?
    - Search your heart. Let's take a step forward right now.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!