



## NEW HOPE SMALL GROUPS

Connect - Engage - Serve

### “Confidence” Paul’s Letter to the Phillipians, Part 1 Week of May 17th, 2020

#### Connecting - with your group

Thank you for staying connected with you small groups! We love and miss you all, and look forward to the day when we can meet in person again! You can continue to access our digital content at [NewHopeEastlake.org/watch](http://NewHopeEastlake.org/watch). Take time to share praises and prayer requests. Remember that if you or someone you know needs groceries, prayer, encouragement - the list could go on - please e-mail us at [help@go-newhope.com](mailto:help@go-newhope.com) and a New Hope staff member will respond accordingly.

#### Engaging - with the Word of God and Others

This week we are beginning a new message series on Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

1. Do you write notes in your Bible as you read and study? As you follow along in church? Why or why not? How has writing notes in your Bible helped you? Do you ever find that a passage that you have noted in the past has a different meaning to you as you read it sometime later? What does that say about God’s word?
2. God prevented Paul from going to two different areas where he intended to preach the Word. Since Philippi was Paul’s third choice, what does that say about some of our decisions? How do we react when we’re prevented from doing a “good” thing that you think would please God? What does that say about God? How can we make better decisions so we don’t get to our third option?
3. Probably none of us have ever suffered for following Christ as Paul (or other persecuted Christians around the world), but we may have suffered in our own way. Have you ever suffered for following Christ? How and why? What was the outcome?
4. What does the term “spiritual fruit” mean to you? What evidence of spiritual fruit would you look for in a Christian’s life to indicate that they are following Christ (that He has the “steering wheel” of their life)? What if you don’t see any fruit in a Christian’s life? How could you encourage such a person?
5. Pastor Russ talked about 6 things we DON’T want to put our faith in: Living up to MY spiritual standards, Sincerity and Zeal, a strong religious heritage (God has no grandchildren), good intentions, a profession of faith, a good start. Which of these 6 that give you a false sense of confidence have you leaned on in the past? Where are you now? How were you able to move past them?

#### Something More

Paul’s interactions with the Philippians model the kind of healthy relationships and practices that can be found in a great small group. Go back and re-read Phil 1:1-11 underlining or writing out any phrases that describe or give insight into his relationships or interactions with the Philippian church. Share & discuss these with your group.

#### Serving - your group through prayer and care

Commit to praying for each other and checking in on each other throughout this week. This is even more important during this time when we don’t have our regular fellowship with each other.