



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 20th August 2023



Hebrews 12:1-3

Faith in Challenging Times. (Feedback from trip to Ukraine)

Warm Up

Who is your favourite Biblical character (apart from Jesus!)? Why?

Have you got a more contemporary Christian hero? (eg: Martin Luther King)? Why do you admire them?

Background and context

Hope Lebedyn is a charity that has been partnering with a Baptist Church and mission centre in Lebedyn in Eastern Ukraine for over 20 years. At present the church is facing very challenging times as it is about one hour from the Russian border. Sirens, explosions and disruption to daily life are the norm now. Schooling and family life have been disrupted and everyone knows someone who has been affected by the war. The Martins and the Taylors recently went to Ukraine to visit them.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



Read: Hebrews 12:1-3. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. In v 1 it speaks of things that hinder and sin that entangles, what do you think this means?
2. Does the verse mean that anything that is not to do with church is bad? Why?
3. In v1 -2 it speaks of running the race marked out for us. What does this mean and how do people wander off track? (see Galatians 6: 4-5).
4. What is the race the church in Lebedyn is now running? How is it different from your race?
5. Read Lamentations 3:18-24. How might this be an encouragement to the church in Ukraine?
6. In ch 12:2-3 it speaks of enduring suffering like Christ did. Why should we expect to suffer as Christians?
7. Why might endurance and perseverance help us to not grow weary?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application



The Lebedyn Church is thriving, but enduring many challenges at this time. Please pray for the whole staff team; for the variety of ministries they do, for people to turn to Christ, for protection from the impact of the war and for strength to persevere and endure.

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.