

## Hebrews 6 Week 5 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide: The Doctrine of Laying on of Hands

#### Opening Discussion:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "laying on of hands"? Have you experienced or witnessed this practice before?

#### Key Takeaways:

1. The laying on of hands is a biblical principle for imparting blessings, gifts, or authority.
2. Our hands are meant to be conduits for God's power and work.
3. To effectively use this practice, we must be "under the hand of God" - submitted to His authority and molding.
4. The spiritual condition of the person laying on hands matters greatly.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the laying on of hands is often ignored or misunderstood in modern Christianity?
2. The sermon mentions that our hands are associated with our works. How can we ensure our "works" align with God's purposes?
3. Discuss the analogy of "clean water flowing through dirty pipes." How does this relate to the importance of personal holiness in ministry?
4. The sermon lists several functions of laying on of hands (healing, baptism of the Holy Spirit, commissioning, etc.). Which of these surprised you or stood out to you? Why?

5. How do you interpret the warning in 1 Timothy 5:22 about not being hasty in laying hands on others?

6. What does it mean practically to be "under the hand of God" in our daily lives?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Self-reflection: Take some time this week to examine your own spiritual condition. Are there areas where you need to submit more fully to God's molding?

2. Prayer exercise: Practice laying hands on each other in prayer, being mindful of the reverence and responsibility this act carries.

3. Study: Choose one of the biblical examples of laying on of hands mentioned in the sermon and dig deeper into its context and meaning.

4. Ministry opportunity: Look for appropriate ways to use touch in your interactions with others this week, whether through a handshake, a comforting hand on the shoulder, or praying for someone with laying on of hands (with their permission).

#### Closing Prayer:

Close by having group members lay hands on one another (as comfortable) and pray for God's work to be accomplished through their hands in the coming week.