

Small Group Notes

Date: Sunday 2nd April

Welcome

How are you doing?

How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week? What have you sensed Him saying to you?

Worship

Start by spending some time in worship together. If you have a worship leader(s) in the group, ask them to lead worship. Alternatively, we have compiled a couple of playlists with a range of songs for you to use during worship and ministry.

[Youtube Playlist](#) [Spotify Playlist](#)

Sermon series: Moments of Encounter

Talk title: Baptism

Speaker: Andy C

Bible Text: Galatians 3:26-29

1) Some opening questions:

For those there on Sunday, what do you remember being said? Importantly, what did Jesus say to you & how did you respond? (encourage people to share personally)

2) Read bible text aloud in the group

- *What jumps out to you from this passage of scripture?*

3) Talk summary

“Water reminds you of your baptism, and baptism reminds you that you belong to Jesus Christ”

- *Baptism is a public announcement of a new allegiance*
- *Baptism points to a new community of being different together*
- *Baptism is ultimately about surrendering everything to Jesus*

4) Questions for application (2-3 questions max.)

Some weeks, suggested questions will be given. Other times we could leave to group leaders

- *Paul says that we now belong to Christ. What do you think He means by this and how should this impact the way we live our lives?*
- *Baptism is a tangible way of recognising our new allegiance to Christ. Once we've been baptised, what would help you each day to remember that you belong to Jesus?*
- *For those who've been baptised, share (max 1 minute) about your baptism and*

what it means to you

- *For any that have not yet been baptised, Andy said on Sunday that for a Christian, baptism is not an optional extra. If we've not been baptised, it's not something we need to think and pray about, rather it is the next step. How can we help you to take this next step?*

5) Prayer ministry

Spend time praying for each other. The goal here is to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than intercessory prayer. We believe that the Holy Spirit is present and able to change and heal right now!

The follow the model below is based on how Jesus prayed for people. It's not a formula but a model we've found extremely helpful. As we demonstrate it, others will "catch it".

There are 3 simple steps: **ASK – PRAY – ASK**

- ASK** – ask the person what they're asking Jesus to do for them
And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do
- PRAY** – like Jesus did, pray your best prayers. Invite the Holy Spirit to come, and then wait. As pray-ers, let's keep our eyes open to see what the Holy Spirit is doing
- ASK** – what's happening? If the pain was a 10 out of 10 when they walked in tonight, ask them what they would score the pain now? What are the next steps? Thank God and ask for more. You may find it helpful to go through these steps 2-3 times.

To ponder or pray about this week...

Suggest a question or activity to take away and do during the week to help in the process of reflection and application.

Some tips for leading a small group Bible discussion:

- *Leading a good Bible discussion is primarily about asking good questions - it's more art than technique and has to be learned "on the job"*
- *We're aiming for self disclosure and application rather than theoretical discussion.*
- *Recognise that people are on a journey - they may be exploring faith or been following Jesus for years.*
- *It may be helpful to start with a lighter ice breaker question, then press in a bit deeper*
- *Open questions are good - "What, How, What if..."*
- *Ask questions that require more than a yes/no answer*
- *Ask questions that are neither insultingly easy nor bewildering obscure!*
- *Supplementary questions are really important - ensure people are grasping meaning rather than trotting out mechanical answers*

- *Supplementary questions have to be asked in the moment, but preparation helps to anticipate various replies*
- *Some helpful questions could include... how does that tie in with the rest of the passage? Can you give an example of that? How do you think this could work out in our lives?*
- *Avoid leaving people thinking "so what?"!!*
- *Remember that all roads in scripture lead to Jesus!*