

Small Group Notes - Week commencing 24 October

Welcome

How are you doing?

Briefly share how you've seen Jesus at work in your life this week? Is there something He's been 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.

[Small Group Spotify playlist](#)

[Small Group Youtube playlist](#)

Sermon series: RESET Talk title: Serving the poor

Speaker: Rob

1) Some opening questions:

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

2) Read bible text aloud in the group (Nehemiah 2)

3) Talk summary

VIDEO: "Talk in two" (a 2 minute summary of Sunday's talk)

Or here's the summary.....

Nehemiah gathered people from across Israel to rebuild the city walls

In doing so many families were left to fend for and feed themselves. But as famine hit and the rich exploited the poor, there was no food left on the table. Families were put in the desperate position of having to sell their children into slavery in order to survive. The people came to Nehemiah to make things right. So how did he do that and how can we be changed?

1) He listened to the cries of the poor

2) He acted

3) As he acted, he was changed.

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

- *What is the Lord saying to you from this passage of scripture? What is jumping out to you?*
- *Rob talked about how many of us have become numb to the cries of the poor. When did you last listen to someone else's story? If it's been a while, how could you create opportunities to do this?*
- *The Lord is inviting us to see the rubble around us. What practical ways could you respond? What is breaking your heart? (There may be some practical ways to get involved 1) Areas you see in your local community 2) Storehouse team - Wednesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays – email storehouse@riversidevineyard.com)*
- *Rob shared about Love Christmas. What practical ways could you get involved either individually, as a household or as a small group? Could you sponsor a family? Could you as a group make a hamper (s)?*

All the details can be found at www.riversidevineyard.com/lovechristmas

NB Do be sensitive to those who may be worried about the coming months and concerned about how they will put food on their table. Do get in touch with one of the pastoral team and we can help with a Storehouse referral or with other help.

5) Prayer ministry

Spend time praying for each other, asking for God's empowering in this re-set moment. Ask the Lord to break your heart with the things that break his. For those that are struggling, this would be a great opportunity to pray for them.

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**

- i) **ASK** – ask the person what they're asking Jesus to do for them
And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do
- ii) **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
- iii) **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!*