

Small Group Notes - Week commencing Sunday 10th October 2021

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: Re-set

Talk title: Doing life with others - Nehemiah 3

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

3) Talk summary

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

Or here's the summary.....

- *Nehemiah is broken by what he sees. As Christians we are called to lean into trouble.*
- *V1 Eliashab the high priest models the kind of leadership that leads to action*
- *Things began to change when they all come together*
 - *people who were willing to try, regardless of lack of gifting*
- *A community will thrive when we do life with others*
- *Jesus had 3 close friends he walked with. If Jesus needed it, how can we say we're fine on our own!'*

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?*
- *I love how the people of the house of the Vineyard (Beth Hakkerem) repair the Dung Gate (v14)! What do you see that's messy or broken in the world around you? Where could you, regardless of skill or gifting, make a difference to your community?*
- *The Hebrew word for repair is Chazak. It's not just about fixing, it's about strengthening. What do you need to bring to Jesus today? How can you help others into meaningful connection?*

Note: remember the SG sharing guidelines - this is a time for people to listen and not share advice (advice sharing quickly inhibits vulnerability). 4 P's - present & personal, not past or preaching. Reinforce confidentiality, mercy & grace

5) Prayer ministry

Spend time praying for each other, asking for God's empowering in this re-set moment

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!*