

Small Group Notes - Week commencing Sunday 19th Sept. 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: Where do we start? - Nehemiah 1:1-11

Speaker: Andy C.

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's response is unexpected; things were going really well for him (cupbearer to the king - v11), but for him, that was not enough until others were going well too*
- *We start by living generously, reaching back to help others*
- *We also prioritise prayer before trying to solve a problem(s)*
- *How can we pray? A simple model is Pause, Rejoice, Ask, Yield (thank you Pete Greig!)*

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?*
- *Nehemiah's life was going really well. The unexpected response he makes is that his personal well-being wasn't enough until others were doing well too. As Christians, we're to use what we have to bless & serve others. What does this look like for you? Think about your involvement at Riverside - how are you currently using what you have to bless others? Are there steps the Lord is inviting you to take? (Please take the opportunity to talk about teams!)*
- *Nehemiah is faced with problems! There are things that need to be re-set. Share one or two things for you personally that you want to see re-set in your life. Invite each person to share.*

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!*