

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Dates:

29th January and
5th February 2017

Titles:

*Culture for Discipleship and
Contexts for Discipleship*

Speakers:

Joe & Lex Ogborn and
Daniel Goodman

Welcome to this week's GG Briefing Notes! Thanks for leading this discussion in your group. Do pray that God uses it to help everyone in your group become more like Jesus.

We have suggested below some things to aim for in your discussion. Please don't just read this sheet out to the group! Decide before you start how you'll work towards each aim. Which of our questions will you use (you may not need all of them) – or can you think of better ones? What kind of answers will you be hoping to get from each question?

As you ask questions, keep the aim in mind, and only give hints if you have to. Don't forget to make sure everyone in the group is involved.

1

Aim

To discuss what being led by the Holy Spirit looks like.

Some Possible Questions

On Sunday, Daniel talked about the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit. Divide into groups and ask each to look at one of these passages and report back on what the result of being led by the Spirit was: Luke 4 v1-2, Acts 8 v26-31, Acts 10 v9-23, Acts 15 v22-29, Acts 16 v6-10. (They might need to skim read the verses either side if they're not familiar with them.)

“Being led by the Spirit is essential if our discipleship is to be gospel-centred.” Discuss.

When was the last time the Holy Spirit led you in a practical decision?

Outside of specific decisions or situations like these, what do you do to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Do you only experience the Holy Spirit in meetings?

Hints

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a big part of the gospel story: see e.g. Peter preaching the gospel in Acts 2 v38, or the way Paul presents walking by the Spirit as the alternative to living under the Old Testament Law in Galatians 5. We may be used to experiencing the Holy Spirit in meetings – after all, the church as a community is His temple – but we should be growing in sensitivity to Him in all aspects of our lives too.

2

Aim

To think about how we can increase the levels of “overlap” and “spurring” in our church family.

Some Possible Questions

Two Sundays ago, Joe & Lex taught us that the church culture we need for discipleship involves high levels of overlap and high levels of spurring. What did they mean by overlap and what did they mean by spurring?

[Divide into threes and fours and give them (some of) the following questions one at a time.]

How could you increase overlap with other Christians in your life? Help each other generate ideas.

What do you find hard about spurring and what steps can you take to grow in it?

What will be the cost for you of high overlap and high spurring? (e.g. personally, relationally, financially, in time?)

If the gospel is good news, why is discipleship costly?

How does the prospect of more overlap and spurring make you feel? Nervous? Excited? Confused? Fearful?

Hints

Overlap = spending time together; in particular, not by adding things to our lives, but by sharing things in our lives.

Spurring = **Spurring** each other on and **urging** each other to increasingly worship, obey & be changed by God (see Hebrews 10 v24-25).

