

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:

12th & 19th March 2017

Title:

*Discipleship and Failure &
Discipleship and
Transience*

Passage:

Psalm 51 etc.

Speakers:

Ali Jones & Nick Green

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 view our own death in the light of the gospel.

Some Possible Questions

Today we will start with a discussion following Nick's talk about discipleship and death, and look back to Ali's talk about confession and repentance later.

What questions do you have about death and/or what the Bible says about dying? Discuss them, with open Bibles (see verses below)!

How do you feel about your own death?

How does the gospel give us hope in place of fear as we face death as followers of Jesus?

Ask people to read out John 11 v21-27, John 14 v1-4, 1 Corinthians 15 v42-58, 2 Corinthians 5 v1-8 and Revelation 21 v1-5.

Which of those passages do you find most encouraging? Why?

Hints

Also useful: Psalm 23 (especially v4), Psalm 116 v15, Luke 23 v43, 1 Thessalonians 4 v13-17.

2

Aim

To understand the place of confession and repentance in our discipleship.

Some Possible Questions

Spurgeon once said, "Those who die daily, die easily." What do you think he meant?

What role do confession and repentance play in our daily dying to self?

Are confession and repentance unnecessary if God forgave all our sins when we started following Jesus?

In twos and threes, look through Psalm 51 and report back on what David wanted to happen as a result of his confession and repentance.

Ali said that the purpose of confession and repentance is the restoration of our relationship with God. To what extent do you agree with this?

Have you experienced confession and repentance leading to restoration of your relationship with God?

Take some time to quietly allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anything He particularly wants you to confess and repent of. Share this in twos and threes if you feel able.

Read Psalm 51 out loud together as an act of confession and repentance.

Give thanks for the hope we have in the face of our sin and our death.

Hints

On Spurgeon: Those who daily die to self will be better prepared for their mortality. See Luke 9 v23-24.

For a New Testament passage about repentance, see James 4 v4-10.

