

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:
Sunday 2nd April 2017
Title:
Discipleship in Everyday Life
Passage:
Psalm 139
Speaker:
Matthew & Heather
Waterson

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 recognise that God sees everything, even day-to-day life.

Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read the whole of Psalm 139.

What phrases does the psalmist use to show how much God knows about us?

How does God's omniscience (knowing all things) make you feel?

Why might this be comforting?

Why could we be afraid of this?

How does it lead to praise?

"The more we realise God knows everything about us, the more we'll treasure the gospel." Discuss!

Hints

Routine (v2, 3), thoughts (v2, 4), past/future (v5), places (v7-10), under the cover of darkness (v11-12), before birth (v13-16), the length of our life (v16).

We may be afraid of God's omniscience if we cut corners when we think no one is looking, or have parts of our lives that we are ashamed of, but don't underestimate God's love for us (Romans 5 v8).

The psalmist responds with awe, wonder and praise (e.g. v6, 14, 17),

2

Aim

To understand that God is more interested in our discipleship than anyone else.

Some Possible Questions

What language does the psalmist use (in Psalm 139) to indicate that God not only sees us but is also active and intervenes?

In pairs/threes, can you find verses in the New Testament that reaffirm God's commitment to our discipleship?

Why is it good news that God is interested in our discipleship?

What can we do to be open to His involvement in our lives?

Hints

See v5, 10, 13-16, 23-24.

New Testament examples: John 14 v25-26, Philippians 1 v6, Ephesians 2 v4-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, etc.

3

Aim

To encourage us to expect the Holy Spirit to speak to us in our day-to-day lives.

Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read Psalm 139 v23-24.

Ask for any (quick!) stories of the Holy Spirit teaching us in day-to-day life. If possible start with yourself to help set the tone.

Pray for one another to "live humbly open to the Holy Spirit".

Hints

Change in our day-to-day lives is not about trying harder - see Hebrews 4 v16.

It is possible that some may have questions about the Holy Spirit - try to follow these up if you can, probably on another occasion.