

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:

30th April

Title:

Agape – This love changes everything

Passage:

1 Corinthians 13

Speaker:

Debbie Heijne

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 identify and describe the characteristics of God's love (agape)

Some Possible Questions

Divide the group into smaller groups and ask them to spend time looking for some of the many verses in the bible about God's love (agape).

Hints

Be aware there are different types of love used in the bible: Philos (love between friends), Storge (Family love), Eros (love between husband and wife) and Agape (unconditional, selfless love God has for us). Help people to consider how the love God has for us is different to these other types of love. Maybe offer these verse that are all about agape: 1 John 4vs8-10 & vs18, Romans 5vs8 & Romans 8vs38-39, John 15vs13, John 3vs16,

2

Aim

To explain the impact that God's love has had on your life.

Some Possible Questions

Imagine that you are having a conversation with someone who does not yet know Jesus. What is your testimony of God's love? What does God's love mean to you and how can you best communicate this to someone who is exploring the benefits of God's love.

Hints

Encourage people to be careful with the language they use, avoid Christian jargon, keep it simple and honest.

3

Aim

To consider how God's love should change the way we love other's.

Some Possible Questions

Refer back to aim 1, using the characteristics identified, invite people to discuss in pairs and identify situations at home, work, school, college etc where they feel challenged to ask the Holy Spirit to help them be God's love and show God's love in that place. Remember that being likeable is different to showing God's love, how can we show love that goes beyond what the world can expect of love? What little things can you challenge one another to change that would help you to communicate self-sacrificial love? Why should we show love to those that we find difficult to love? How can we do this?

Hints

'Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples,' John 13.35. These verses emphasise the importance of showing this type of love to others: Matthew 5 vs 43-44, Matthew 22vs 37-39, John 13vs 34-35, 1 John 4vs7. Agape is self-sacrificial love, encourage people to be specific and that this is not something to try really hard at, but to ask the Holy Spirit within us to guide and prompt us. Pray that we make space to listen to the Holy Spirit and can therefore demonstrate this type of love more perfectly.

