

# GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Title:  
*Putting Family into Practice*  
Speaker:  
Richard and Chris Todd

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 see how responding to the gospel means that we will love each other.**

### Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read 1 John 3 v11-18.

According to this passage, why does responding to the gospel inevitably mean that we love one another?

How can we make sure that our love for each other is gospel-centred – i.e. flowing out of what God has done for us? (See v16).

Being family will mean making sacrifices for the Church – just as Jesus did.

How does the gospel motivate you to do that?

In practice, how does the Holy Spirit help you to see other people in the church with the compassion God has for them?

## 2

### Aim

**To think about what loving one another could look like in practice.**

### Some Possible Questions

In Sunday's sermon, Richard and Chris talked about a number of practical ways in which they have expressed love to others.

In what ways have other Christians expressed love and "been family" to you?

What opportunities have you had to love others in our church family in tangible ways?

What ideas (perhaps from the sermon) do you have about how we could spend more time being part of each other's lives as a church family?

Could you facilitate your idea by leading a City Group?

Think about the culture you are used to living in (British or otherwise). What are the attitudes and assumptions of that culture that aren't very compatible with making church a real family?

### Hints

Ideas for being in each others' lives more could be big or small: meals, holidays, move house, live together, lunch breaks, devotional routines, mission.... Not all ideas will be facilitated by City Groups – like Growth Groups, they will be a helpful tool, but not the sum total of what it means to be family.

Possible ideas in British culture that aren't very compatible with being church family: your home is your castle, don't phone after 9pm, don't talk about money, being too busy to be spontaneous, you have a right to personal space/time/money.

## 3

### Aim

**To commit to action.**

### Some Possible Questions

Family is not a structure, it is the decisions we make about our relationships with each other. Many small decisions add up to a culture change. In twos and threes, identify a small (or big!) change that you can make to help us be family together. Commit to making it!

