

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:

23.07.17

Title:

Family for all

Passage:

John 13:34-35

Speaker:

Andrew Bunt

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 understand that the church is meant to be a family who love each other with a love modelled on Jesus' love for us. To think about what characterises this love.

Some Possible Questions

Read John 13:34-35. Jesus says we are to love each other just as he has loved us. In what ways has Jesus loved us? How does this come out in John's Gospel? What characterises the love that Jesus has shown us? Is this your experience of being a part of church family?

Hints

The context of 13:34-35 is significant - it is just after Jesus has washed the disciples' feet (the act of a slave) and the night before he will be crucified for them.

The love Jesus has shown us is costly, self-sacrificial, active - a motivator for choices.

2

Aim

To see the lies which stop us from living out church as family for all people.

Some Possible Questions

What lies from culture do you think we believe which stop us from living out God's vision for church as family? (See below) Do you think it's true that we sometimes believe these lies? How do they affect the way we live our lives? How can we deal with these lies which stop us living out God's vision for the church?

Hints

The lies Andrew discussed were... 1. Relational fulfilment (i.e. being satisfied) is only found in romantic relationships/nuclear family; 2. Love = sex; 3. Nuclear family should be closed.

3

Aim

To talk about practical ways we can make church a family for people in all life situations.

Some Possible Questions

What practical things can we do to move closer to living out God's vision of the church as family for people in all life situations? Andrew talked about three foundations (see below). What practical steps can we take to put each of these foundations in place? Is church as family a priority for you? Are you proactive about living it out? If not, why not and do you feel there are things you need to do to change?

Hints

The three foundations Andrew talked about were... 1. Understanding other; 2. Sharing life; 3. Prioritising relationship and being family together.

Don't forget that all of this is only possible through the empowering of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.