

Church Rediscovered, week 2

A suggested outline for small groups

Notes to facilitator:

- Feel free to add, subtract or modify anything - and be creative.
- Make sure that things keep moving, and that no part drags on too long. The discussion part should not exceed 45 minutes. Keep energy levels high throughout.
- Be careful not to intimidate any new people, especially unchurched ones. Explain things. Let people know they don't have to pray aloud.
- Make sure that everyone contributes, not just a few people.
- Be enthusiastic, personal and real. This will set the tone for everyone else.

Optional: get-to-know-you question

- The church is meant to be a joyful spiritual family, although physical families are not always joyful. What would you say the dominant mood of your family was, while you were growing up? Additionally - and this is only if you want to - explain why.

Optional: listen to 5-min recap of Sunday's meeting. Download it.

Scriptures to be read

- Acts 2:41-47.

1) The church Jesus is building gives itself to authentic relationships.

- In these verses we note that they ate together, rejoiced together, wept together, prayed together, were on a mission together, and met in each other's homes. And this resulted in authentic relationships.
- What ideas can you think of that we as individuals and as a home group can do that will deepen our friendships? Write list down.
- From this list of ideas, which ones should we immediately action?

2) The church Jesus is building gives itself to practical care.

- Do you have a story to tell of how, when you went through a very difficult time, people were there for you, and helped you practically?
- We need to care not only for each other, but for the needy of our city. Is there anyone in the group who serves in one of the many Common Good Initiatives of the church? If so, let them briefly feedback to the group what they do.
- Perhaps the group can plan to do something together with regards to serving the needy? See attached document for ideas.

3) The church Jesus is building gives itself to trustworthy leaders.

- Read Hebrews 13:7 and 13:17. Why is it important for us to 'remember our leaders' (v7) and entrust our lives to them (v17)?
- Would you say that you're a person who struggles to entrust your life to spiritual leaders, even trustworthy ones, or do you do it easily?

Praying together

- As a group - or perhaps in smaller sub-groups - pray to God about the themes that have emerged in this conversation. Also pray for
 - 1) those who serve in a Common Good Initiative and
 - 2) for the home groups' leader (or leadership couple).