

Church Rediscovered, week 3

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.
- If there are non-Christians present adjust the questions to be more inclusive to them.

Optional: get-to-know-you question

- Are you a punctual person? And what in your life's experiences do you think led to you being punctual or not punctual?

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 gathering regularly.

- *Read verse 46 and Hebrews 10:24-25.* According to these verses what is meant to happen whenever the church gathers? Any other good reasons you'd like to add for prioritizing home group and Sunday meetings?

2) The church Jesus is building gives itself to encountering God.

- *Read verse 42 and 47.* They encountered God in prayer and praise. What can we as individuals do to keep our prayer and praise levels more consistently on the boil?
- *Read verse 44.* We're meant to encounter God in power. Three common experiences of God's power in the church are 1) physical healings, 2) fresh infillings by the Spirit, and 3) prophetic words. How can we as a home group open ourselves to more of these expressions of God's power?

3) The church Jesus is building gives itself to helping others find Christ.

- *Read verse 47.* Who are the people who don't yet know Christ that you have the strongest relationships with? Any stories of spiritual conversations you've had with them, or perhaps times you invited them to church? What is the main hurdle you're facing in introducing them to Christ?
- Not-yet Christians should be able to belong before they believe. What do you understand by this?
- Brand new Christians need to be cared for. How can we as a group better care for them?

Praying together

- As a group - or perhaps in smaller sub-groups - pray to God about the themes that have emerged in this conversation. Be open to any prophetic words in this time. Also be sure to spend some time praying that our friends and family members will find Christ through our conversations and invitations.