

A/ Teaching

Bible Material – Key Points - based on Colossians 3v1-4,12-17; Philippians 3v7-4v1

[Illustration: ants/team]

The Project/Task

- Crisis coming (2 Peter 3v1-13)
 - Build Church for Eternity (1 Corinthians 3v9)
 - “Bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19v7)
- ⇒ Get to work!

Remember already

- Love one another (John 13v34-35)
 - Forgive one another and be reconciled, do not offend (Matthew 17v24-18v35)
 - Seek the interests of others (Philippians 2v4)
- ⇒ Precursor to below!

Our Responsibility (& Jesus’ example)

- Witness to Unbelievers (Romans 10v13-15, Luke 19v10, Mark 1v17)
 - Encourage, Build Up & Spur on (1 Thess 4v18, 5v11, Hebrews 3v13, 10v24-25, John 14v16)
 - Carry Each other burdens (Galatians 6v2, Matthew 11v28)
 - Pray for each other (James 5v16, John 17, Luke 22v32)
 - Open & confess sins (James 5v16, Mark 14v34)
 - Exercise the gifts Spirit has given (1 Corinthians 14v12)
 - Teach & Warn (Romans 15v14, Colossians 3v16, Matthew 14v31, 18v12-17)
- ⇒ Apply in Love!

How – Healthy Heart

- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought (Romans 12v3)
 - Love one another deeply from the heart (1 Peter 1v22)
 - Love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5v5)
 - Get on and do (Matthew 12v50, James 2v26)
- ⇒ Guard your heart!
- ⇒ Action: Open Time, Chat time, Small Groups, Time Together

B/ Personal Reflection & Development - Materials available

Some of the following may help you reflect on these things further:

- Key Bible Passages with regards to our priority:
 - Philippians 1v3-30,3v7-4v1
 - 1 Thessalonians 4v13-5v10
 - Matthew 6v19-34, 24v36-25v46
 - 2 Peter 3v1-13
 - Revelation 20v11-22v21
 - 1 Corinthians 15
- Think about:
 - In my practical life, what are the main aims and goals I am seeking? Why?
 - What motivated Jesus in his life and death? (Matthew 20v28, Luke 15, Luke 19v10, Hebrews 12v1-3)
 - With what can I feed my mind and heart to encourage a Christ-like motivation? What practical steps can you take to do this? (e.g. listen to Bible or talks or connected songs on your phone, memorise Bible passages ...)
 - Taking practical steps can, over time, change our heart and mind as we engage with the practice.
 - What practical steps can you take to increase your witness to unbelievers? E.g. participate in a mission activity (give out leaflets, help in an event, go on a mission trip ...), engage with your friends/colleagues/neighbours.
 - What practical steps can you take to encourage other believers? E.g. hospitality, pray for them, support ...
- Meditate on some songs:
 - Facing a task unfinished (traditional hymn)
 - There's a place, where the street shine (Paul Oakley)
 - Soon and very soon (Andrae Crouch)
 - See the glory (Tony Finch)
 - Great is the darkness (Noel Richards)
 - Last verses of "O Lord my God" & "Anastasis" (I cast my mind to Calvary)
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Philippians 3v13-14, 18-21
- Further study:
 - Find out what unbelievers around you are thinking. Think about and research ways you can engage with their thinking.
 - Find out about the believers around you and think about ways you can support them.

Reflect on some of the "Small Team" and "Pair/Triplet" material before meeting.

C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins)
 - Project
 - What is the project we are on? (1 Corinthians 3v5-17)
 - When is the completion day?
 - Why is it such a high priority?
 - What will I take with me when I move to my final destination (die)?
 - Our responsibility
 - What do we learn from Jesus about our responsibility towards current unbelievers?
 - What do we learn about our responsibility towards other believers?
- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - Project
 - Is this our number one priority in practice? What competes with this in our lives?
 - Our Responsibility to Unbelievers
 - Share ways that you are taking this responsibility to unbelievers now.
 - What may hold us back from fulfilling this responsibility?
 - In what ways can you as a group support one another in this?
 - What can you do as a group to reach outsiders? (e.g. BBQ, Alpha)
 - Our Responsibility to One Another
 - Share how someone has encouraged you lately.
 - What can you do to encourage others? (e.g. help, complement, pray, give, prophetic, open, warn)
 - What implications does this have on how a small group functions?
 - What holds us back from fulfilling this responsibility?
 - What burdens are being carried by participants at the moment? How can we carry each others’ burdens?
- Pray together (20 mins)
 - Share and pray about practical matters arising from above.
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower each of you to be witnesses.
 - Pray for your “*list-of-5*” – and for your courage to witness!

D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in God (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship.
 - How do you feel about the “project” we are on? What difficulties do you find in working towards this?
 - Encourage each other in dealing with these things.
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or Philippians 3v14-4v1). (15 mins)
 - What is Paul’s motivation?
 - Do we share that motivation?
 - What did this mean in practice for Paul? What does it mean in practice for me?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage and your discussion.
 - Pray for God to enable you to fulfil your responsibilities.
 - Pray for your “list-of-5”.