



Life Issues - A Facilitators Guide

Overview

For 5 weeks, commencing September 8th 2013, the preaching and small group studies will continue with the Life Issues series. This complements and continues earlier studies during 2012/13, where we have explored issues aimed at equipping us all to live well and to stay true to our Christian beliefs whilst living in what some might describe as a consumer driven culture. Over 5 weeks, each study will focus on a specific issue:

September 8th	Integrity
September 15th	Humility
September 22nd	Influence
September 29th	Living God's Best Life
October 6 th	Making a difference in your world

You are receiving Small Groups Notes for all 5 sessions in advance so that you can view them holistically, assess how they can be best used for your particular group and, as appropriate, gather and prepare any additional resources required to make the sessions run smoothly. As small groups are a place to belong, be cared for and to grow, this should be an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. The diversity of groups is acknowledged and therefore, the material has been designed to be flexible in order that you can achieve best fit to the needs of your group.

NB You will have the master copy for your group. You can e mail them onto group members or print off as many extra copies of the study and of the activity sheets, as appropriate and as you deem necessary.

For discussions/activities

- You will know when to lead, develop and challenge the discussions if they feel superficial and you will recognise the opportunities to allow discussion to travel on the occasions where you feel that it will be fruitful, without feeling any pressure to complete all the questions.
- You will be able to choose to conduct whole group discussions or break into smaller group discussions- whichever you judge will achieve best results.
- You will know whether a particular activity will work for your group, whether you will need to adapt it or, as appropriate, choose not to use it.
- If it works for your group you may want to consider Neil Hudson's advice when exploring scripture i.e. ask yourselves the following questions:
 - What does the text reveal about Jesus/ God/ the Gospel?
 - How does this shape my understanding of what it means to be a disciple?
 - Reading this in the light of where I have been today/this week
 - What do I notice? How am I challenged? How does it shape me? Thinking together about this passage makes me want to pray that....and
 - In the light of the discussion do I need to take any specific actions?

We aim to be whole life disciples. Each series that we look at should be life changing for us! Enjoy the series and let our wonderful God continue His work within you and within the lives of your group members!