

**CELL GROUP NOTES**

From June this year we’ll be joining over 60 churches in one of the largest missions seen in Norfolk: “Who Cares?” We hope this Bible study and these practical tasks will help your group to prepare and pray into the mission as we all have an opportunity to get involved and share the good news of Jesus.

**Welcome**

How does it make you feel when somebody really listens to you?

Watch the video about the Mission. You can find it at http://vimeo.com/86177798

**Worship**

Who Cares? is about reaching out and caring but we need to start with a time when we as Christian can recommit any thing we find hard to handle to God.

Hand out a survey card to each person in the group.

Spend some time reflecting and answering the question as individuals.

After you have written an answer give that situation over to God and ask him to help you remember that he is your hope.

Pray for each other

**Word**

**Why do it like this?**

The Bible says ‘always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect’ (1 Peter 3:15). Many people struggle to comprehend the concept of ‘love’ but all human beings know what it is to feel pain and long for hope. We have a hope that goes way beyond meeting our felt needs and yet it does touch on every aspect of our lives: the gospel of Jesus Christ! We want to be able to share with people that the reason for the hope we have is Jesus! But in a culture that seems to have little time for what the Church has to say, how do we show people this hope?

Look at the following passages from the Bible. All of the passages end with someone or a group of people deciding to follow Jesus!

Discuss what it is that Jesus reveals about himself in each passage. What first attracts these people to Jesus?

John 4 1-42

Luke 19 1-10

John 4 43-54

Luke 18 31-42

**How could this influence how we share the gospel today?**

With the Who Cares? mission we want to follow the example here set by Jesus. Any need that we have can be met by Jesus and we want to show people that this is the case. For those fearing death we can show that Jesus is victorious over death, for those who feel the weight of guilt we can show that Jesus brings forgiveness, for those who are lonely we can show that Jesus is love.

Look again at John 4 1-42 and Luke 19 1-10.

**What do you notice about how Jesus addresses people’s spiritual needs?**

**Witness**

The “Who Cares?” Mission is a simple way we can all be involved in reaching the people around us with the love and compassion of Jesus. It starts with SIMPLY listening to people’s needs. (Proverbs 18:13)

1. Write a list of all the places you meet people on any given week. Work place, community group, family, friends etc.
2. Get one person in the Group to read or present the information below on “How to ask the question”. Including the 6 key principles and examples.
3. You can now have a practice go at explaining the mission to each other How did you find that? Any questions?
4. As a small group, think about how you can use the survey, and support each other (eg ask friends/ family to complete it, go visiting with it or pray for those who are visiting)
5. Now get together and pray for your group, and any specific people you have decided to do the survey with.

**How to ask the question**

It’s very simple – it depends on the relationship you have with the person. We frame the question in two ways: ‘what hurts the most? Or what’s the one thing in life you find hard to handle?’ On the cards ‘what hurts the most’ is most prominent, which is most direct. Verbally asking ‘what’s the one thing in life you find hardest to handle?’ is a bit softer and you may want to say that instead. It just gives you a bit of flexibility.

The **six key principles** are:

1. No pressure, make it easy for people to say they don’t want to take part.

2. Give a clear opportunity for them to do it anonymously, but bear in mind some will just answer for you to write it down.

3. No follow up questions – such as how did you find that? How did you feel about that? It’s a one-question survey.

4. Leave them with some information – so they know what’s happening with their results.

5. Don’t argue or challenge wrong beliefs. If they want to rant about Christians or church, great! Just listen and learn.

6. Be ready to answer questions. Some people will not say anything; some people will want to ask about the survey, which is where the flyer comes in handy if you struggle to explain things. Some people will want to talk about their problems and ask questions maybe about your faith. That’s amazing but it’s up to them whether it goes that deep.

There are various ways to ask this question, and it really depends on the relationship you have with the person. Here are some examples at two ends of a scale from someone you don’t know at all to someone you know really well…

***Example of a low-key way to engage with someone you don’t know:***

*There’s a massive one-question survey taking place in Norfolk at the moment, would you be willing to take part and answer one question?*

*Here’s a bit of information about the survey. It’s anonymous so you don’t have to tell me, all you need to do is write your answer to this question here and pop it in here.*

*Thanks very much.*

***ExampleExample of talking to a friend:***

*You know I belong to a church, well something really interesting is happening at the moment, churches across Norfolk are doing this massive one-question survey finding out what’s the one thing in life people find hardest to handle. Would you be willing to take part?*

*The idea is it’s anonymous you just write it here, and pop it in an envelope and I’ll pass it on.*

**Note** - If it’s a friend they may well tell you and you then you write their answer down for them. [**Idea:** they could always type the answer in on the website on a phone or iPad to save you collecting the written card]

**LEADER NOTES ON THE BIBLE PASSAGES**

**Why do it like this?**

John 4 1-42 – Jesus initially shows himself to be a Jew who is willing to cross cultural boundaries and associate with a Samaritan woman. He then tells the woman that he is the living water, capable of satisfying her needs. She does not initially understand that Jesus is talking mainly about spiritual needs, and is attracted to the idea that Jesus can satisfy her physical needs. Later on in the conversation Jesus tells her about her life in a way he could not possibly know without it being revealed by God. This increases her intrigue even more and she calls him a Prophet.

Luke 19 1-10 – Zacchaeus must have been intrigued by Jesus’ reputation to want to see him. When Jesus communicates with Zacchaeus he shows himself to be someone who is willing to befriend those who are outcasts, and ‘sinners’.

John 4 43-54 – Again Jesus had a reputation, this time as someone who has the power to heal. Jesus shows this to be the case.

Luke 18 31-42 – In this passage the blind man is the one to approach Jesus because his reputation is that he is merciful and has the power to heal. Jesus shows this to be true.

Throughout these passages we see that Jesus does not use a one-size-fits-all approach to reveal himself and his gospel. In each situation the thing that attracts the person to Jesus is that he can answer their own immediate, perceived need. For the woman at the well, Jesus shows him self to be the satisfaction she is lacking, for Zacchaeus Jesus shows himself to be a friend to the marginalised, and to the blind man, and the official Jesus shows himself to be a healer of physical illness.

**What do you notice about how Jesus addresses people’s spiritual needs?**

John 4 1-42 – In this passage Jesus points to the morality of the woman at the well and convicts her of the sin of adultery. It is only after this conviction that she comes to follow Jesus.

Luke 19 1-10 – We can see that Zacchaeus has obviously been convicted of the sin of dishonesty and greed by his actions. It is after this that Jesus proclaims that ‘salvation has come to [Zacchaeus’] house.’

Jesus doesn’t stop at answering our perceived needs, but addresses our deepest need – he deals with our sins and reconciles us to God. Through the Who Cares? mission we hope to not only show that Jesus is the answer to people’s needs in a surface level way, but to show that the cause of all need is traced back to sin and separation from God. We hope that through showing that Jesus is the answer to people’s perceived needs this will lead to people seeing Jesus as the one who answers their greatest need.