

small things BIG DIFFERENCE

Week 2

Life Group Notes

Process (what has been taught) - 5 minutes

In Colossians 3:16 Paul exhorts the believers to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”. The Bible is primary tool the Holy Spirit uses to transform our thinking (cf Romans 12:2). However, Jesus frequently rebukes certain men in the Bible who had gone to great lengths to memorise the Bible but had no idea how to apply it to their lives (cf. James 1:22-25). So whilst the Bible is good for:

- Knowing the character of God (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- Discovering God’s will (Psalm 119:105)
- Keeping us from sin (Psalm 119:11)
- Renewing our minds (Romans 12:1-2)
- Be assured of what is true (John 17:17)

It is only effective for those who allow it to “dwell in them richly”.

Prepare (for godliness) - 15 minutes

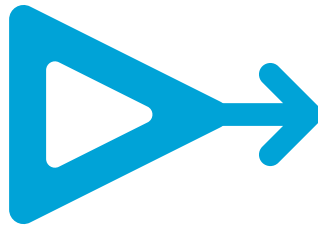
Ask the group members to share their most meaning Bible passage. Don’t ask the group at this stage for reasons why - just ask them to read the passage to the rest of the group.

Three “basic” principles for Bible Application

1. Change happens as we **listen** to God speak
2. God has something to say about **my situation**
3. Listening and Obeying God (application) always leads to **deeper relationship with God**

Practice (of godliness) - 30 minutes

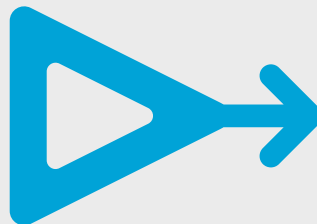
Remind the group that we are aiming to dwell in God's Word rather than pursue an in-depth theological study. In their journals ask the group members to write out their most meaning Bible passage, then, underneath their passage ask them to draw a triangle that looks like this, (leaving space all around):



Step 1: Using your most meaning passage, identify who God is, how He speaks and how He steps into life's problems. What does the passage reveal about God's character? How is God working through situations in your passage? Write out your answer near the top left angle. Here's an example:

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*God is merciful
God is the source of all comfort
God comforts me*

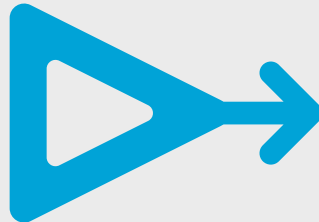


Step 2: Now ask the members to identify a (present) difficulty or struggle (quite often, because these a memorable verses this step is quite straightforward, although it could be historical). Some helpful question that the group might consider are: what makes them anxious, fearful, irritated or angry? What difficulty or crisis are they facing at work, in their family or with their health? Remind members that this is between them and the Lord and you're not going to be asking for people to discuss these unless they volunteer!)

Ask the members to write the difficulty or struggle in near the bottom left angle. Here's an example:

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*God is merciful
God is the source of all comfort
God comforts me*



*I have a coworker who has
slandered me. They have
started to make work difficult
because others we work with
have believed their gossip*

Step 3: Ask the group members to consider how an active and living faith would be expressed in their lives as God's truth and their situation meet? How does their passage teach them to exercise faith more fully? (hint: use the text). Ask the members to write how living & active faith is expressed at the end of the arrow. Here's an example:

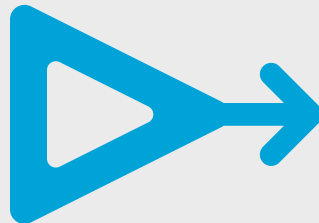
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God is merciful

God is the source of all comfort

God comforts me

I can comfort others in the same situation



I can use God's comfort (not my own) to comfort others

I have a coworker who has slandered me. They have started to make work difficult because others we work with have believed their gossip

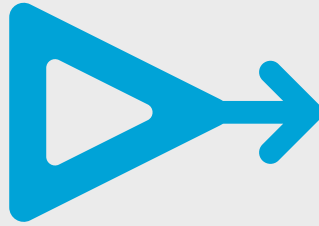
God wants to use me for His glory

Remember that change happens where we **listen** to God speak, remembering that God has something to say about **my situation** and by listening and obeying God always leads to **deeper relationship with God**

If you have time, read Galatians 2:20 and work on another triangulation (sample answers on next page).

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

*Jesus has been crucified
Jesus lives in me
Jesus loves me
Jesus gave Himself for me*



*What I hate in myself is
dead - this is not by my
power but by Christ who
lives in me (PRAISE THE
LORD!)*

Struggling with reoccurring sin

*Believe in the Son of
God*

If any of the group want to share their work this would be a good opportunity for that, followed by a time of prayer.

Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

Use this time to pray for one other.