

Small Group Resources 12 Feb 2017

Theme & Passage(s)	God's fellow workers 1 Corinthians 3 v 1 to 9, Galatians 5 v 22 to 23
Welcome	Ask the members of the group to share what kind of day they have had – as people are sharing make a note of key words that stand out – eg frantic, busy, difficult, easy, smooth, boring. When people have finished sharing reflect these key words back to the group as a “word picture” of the whole group’s experience
Worship	<p>Psalms and songs: Worship Ideas: Listen to one of the following songs and then have an open time of prayer and thanksgiving to God: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqq4B8H2Q - Set a fire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSQvoindE4 – My Jesus, my Saviour https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp-kT3PI3tw - I'm alive in you.</p> <p>Read the words of Colossians 1 v 9 to 12 together: Lord, we pray that: We will be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May God strengthen us with all power according to His glorious might for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.</p>
Word/ Read & Reflect	<p>Begin in silence, welcoming the Holy Spirit to guide you.</p> <p>Read the passage 1 Corinthians 3 v 1 to 9 and then be silent. Read again. Be silent once more, attentive to the Spirit. Consider some or all of the following questions... Is work a Godly thing? - discuss Do you believe you are serving God when you are at work – please give reasons for your answer. What does it mean to be “in God’s service?” This passage clearly indicates that God has work for us to do? What is that work? Paul also tells us that we are co-workers or fellow workers. Who are we working with? Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. Theologians understand the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven as being one and the same thing. But what is meant by the phrase “the Kingdom</p>

	<p>of God? Paul talks about being “people who live by the Spirit”? What does it mean to live by the Spirit? How do you know if you are “living by the Spirit”?</p>
<p>Working it out</p>	<p>Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, is giving them an appraisal. He says that they are “still worldly – mere infants in Christ”. He would like to address them as “people who live by the spirit” - the message being that, as followers of Christ we should be people who “live by the Spirit”. The good news is that our worldliness can be turned around by the Holy Spirit so that we become “people who live by the spirit” In groups of two or three take time to share areas of our lives that are still worldly, and bring those to God in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to come and transform those areas of our lives.</p> <p>The passage starts with Paul referring to “living by the Spirit” and finishes with the statement that “we are co-workers in God’s service” The idea is that the more we live by the Spirit the more able and effective we will be in our service to God. In groups of two or three, ask each person to think about a particular area that God has asked them to serve in. This could be in the workplace, at home, with parents, in the church etc. Take time praying for each other, asking God to come by his Holy Spirit to empower and enable them in that area of service. If people are not sure whether God has given them a particular area of service spend time asking God to reveal that to them.</p>
<p>Extra</p>	<p>Consider Bookham Baptist Church’s mission to make fruitful followers of Jesus. Discuss and agree something to do together as a group to contribute towards making fruitful followers of Jesus.</p>