

Session 5 : Intro

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



OPENER

Think back to the last time when a small group Bible study particularly encouraged you and helped you to be built up.

What was it that made it meaningful for you?



When we meet in our small groups, we tend to spend most of our time in Bible study and prayer.

But making that work as God intends (for discipleship) can be tricky

Session 5

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR HOME GROUP?

- More focused on Deliberating or Doing?
- More focused Bible or Experience?
- More focused on Bible Knowledge or Relationships?

It may be that some of your past experience has made you feel you do actually have to choose. It's either one or the other.

BUT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DECIDE

WE WANT TO:

- understand in order to do
- bring the Bible to bear on experience
- know better so that we can love better.
- be both / and

*When our small groups are places of discipleship our reading of the bible should be less about **information** and more about **formation**.*

Session 5

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



What are the distinctive benefits of studying the Bible together in our small groups rather than through our own individual study?

- We learn from each other through testimonies and looking at things a different way
- Mature help immature to understand
- We are challenged by each other
- We have accountability
- We have the opportunity to put into practise what we are reading together
- We are further building on what we have heard on Sundays. If we are relying on a sermon to give us all our weekly teaching, then the chances are that we miss out on how the Bible shapes our identity in Christ, and the changes in our worldview that mean we recognise where our culture may be conforming us.



Session 5

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



What are we seeking when we open our Bibles together?

What is our aim as small group leaders?

Romans 12 v 2 says **'be transformed by the renewing of your mind'**

- **Be transformed** - our lives are changed. We are seeking to see people equipped as believers with the sword of the Spirit that will help them go out to face the battles in their week
- **By the renewing of your mind** - We are seeking to see people grow in Christlike character and in depth of knowledge of God's will

As leaders, we seek to help people to understand the passage, but that is just the start. So we are seeking to go deeper than that, and ask God what he is showing us from the passage - how our minds can be renewed and our lives be transformed.



You will have seen that our Emmanuel Bible study questions have been put together in a way that seek to unpack the passage with some knowledge-based questions, then moves to questions that call for analysis, testimonies, and evaluation as we ponder our week ahead.

Session 5

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



Some pointers from the LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) as a way to use what we learn in our Bible studies to help us to grow in depth.

Modelling Christlike character - how can this passage shape my character as a believer? What can I take from it into the week with its challenges?

Making good work - how might this passage address how I approach my job or my role in life this week?

Ministering grace and love - How does this passage show me what God's grace and love look like? How can I model these traits in my life at this time?

Moulding culture - How does this passage show the culture of the kingdom of God? How might it clash with the culture I spend my week in?

Mouthpiece for truth and justice - are there examples in this passage of people taking a stand? What can I learn from that?

Messenger of the gospel - What aspect of the good news of the gospel is shown in this passage? How might it help me to share it with someone else?

When we use some of these 'M's in our Bible study, we may want to ask our group to think about what it means to honestly follow Jesus in their current circumstances as well as how we can pray for them at this time in the light of this passage.

Session 5

FROM INFORMATION TO FORMATION | How to do corporate Bible study



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Modelling Christlike character - how can this passage shape my character as a believer? What can I take from it into the week with its challenges?

Making good work - how might this passage address how I approach my job or my role in life this week?

Ministering grace and love - How does this passage show me what God's grace and love look like? How can I model these traits in my life at this time?

Moulding culture - How does this passage show the culture of the kingdom of God? How might it clash with the culture I spend my week in?

Mouthpiece for truth and justice - are there examples in this passage of people taking a stand? What can I learn from that?

Messenger of the gospel - What aspect of the good news of the gospel is shown in this passage? How might it help me to share it with someone else?

Look at the 6 questions above. Think back to times that you have looked at the Bible with your small group. Which of the 6 (or something similar) do you find yourself asking and discussing most readily? Which do you find feature less in your discussions?