

## Life Group Preparation Notes:

The Big Issue - The Church is boring and I get nothing out of it!

Week 3, Sunday morning, 23 July 2017

**Worship:** Giving thanks is the essence of worship. What one thing are you thankful for? (Not church or “spiritual”) Pray one sentence prayers around the circle starting with, Dear God, I am so thankful for...!

**Check-in:** Share with the group how you were able to show compassion to someone over the past couple of weeks as we’ve looked at the church being the “Bride of Christ”.

**Goal for this week:** To become more passionate about the church, and its purpose.

### **Background:**

God created the world with an order and a rhythm. One author said that when speaking about the order, rhythms and patterns of God said that most of life is made up of the ordinary and the mundane...it’s the principal of the everyday and that can feel like unspectacular, unexciting and boring.

We read in the Bible that God planned rhythms and order in every part of creation. In Genesis 8:22, we see seed time and harvest, winter and summer. There are seasons for planting, growing, bearing fruit, harvesting and dying. The truth of these rhythms, order and habits are that this is how God works - we want to bypass it, break free of the limitations, because it’s so boring, yet this is His chosen pattern for how He created nature.

There is no better illustration than marriage, at the beginning its exciting, new adventures, honeymoon. Then it begins to lose some of that sparkle with the commitment and sacrifices of everyday life. In the first week of the series we spoke about the Church and His Bride - Ephesians 5:22 “Husbands love your wives as Christ loves His Church and gave His life for it”. Sadly people also opt in and out of Church when it’s no longer exciting. For us to live out the rhythms, order and patterns of God we need to develop Godly habits and live them out in the everyday!

**Key Scripture:** Genesis 28:16-18

1. Gather - worship Him; discipleship and prayer; serve others
2. Scatter - go into the world; bring others; good deeds

**Scripture verses:** Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 18:4; Acts 2:42, 47; Matthew 18:20; Luke 19:10; Luke 9:2; John 1:41-42

### **Group Discussion:**

1. Church is boring and I don't get anything out of it...is that how you feel? What should your response be to feeling that way? How would you respond to someone else who says that?

2. The definition of the word habit is a pattern of repeated behaviour. Share with the group your daily practices/habits and one thing that you have introduced into your daily quiet time this year.
3. Name some of the things that hinder you (us) from the regular habit of group, prayer services, Church and serving (in or outside the church).
4. We gather whether on a Sunday or in group to grow so that we can “go”. Share with the group what needs to change in your everyday for these regular habits to be more than just the “ticking of boxes” so that we can “go into all the world”?
5. Our mission is to fulfil what was always in the heart of God - to find those who are lost (Luke 19:10). Share with the group one thing that you are committed to change in your everyday habits to prepare for your encounter with those who are lost.
6. In Luke 9:2, Jesus sends out the Twelve Disciples to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Each week we have an ‘others’ block where we ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us regarding those we are praying for. Share with the group a recent testimony of where you were able to share the gospel with someone; show them compassion or bring them to church.

### **Next Steps:**

To connect with other people at Sunday services, not just our close friends or life group but others who stand on their own or that we don't yet know.  
Let's make church about connecting with God and others, then it can never be boring!

### **Others:**

Take some time in group to talk about the ways we can show Grace and Truth to those who are lost.  
Share one or two names of those in your work place/neighbourhood that you are praying for.  
Ask someone in the group to pray for you and for those you have named for opportunities to show Grace and Truth.

### **Check-out and prayer time:**

Take 2 minutes in silence to reflect on why you get bored with the rhythms that God ordered/created. Pray back to God a confession of this and then an action/commitment to live out His mission daily.