

Questions of Life

5: How Does God Guide Us?

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...

Each share a particularly good or bad decision that you've made.

WORSHIP

Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God.

You could try this...

Put out some visual symbols of finding your way or travelling – compass, map, GPS system, shoes?!

Read out Psalm 25:1-7

Each think about any decisions you are facing at the moment. You may want to write them down –or represent them by drawing them privately.

Ask God to show you his ways and teach you his paths (v4)

Take some time to listen to God.

Commit to obeying him.

Read out verses 4-5 together.

WORD

Read Proverbs 16:1-9

Discuss your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?



- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?

Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)

- What conditions does God attach to guiding us? (v3, 5, 7)
- How far should we take 'Commit to the Lord whatever you do' (v3)? How can you do this in practice?
- How do you reconcile '...and your plans will succeed' (v3) with 'The Lord works out everything for his own ends...' (v4)
- Consider verse 9. To what extent do you think we are free to determine our path through life and to what extent is it controlled by God?
- Have you experienced God's guiding recently?
- How can we discern whether guidance is from God, others, yourself or the devil? How easy do you find it to do this?

WHAT NEXT?

Share any decisions that you are facing in your life. Pray for one another for God's guidance & blessing.

Try & remember to follow up by asking how people got on next time.

Questions of Life

6: How Can I Resist Evil?

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...

If a good friend invited you to a Hallowe'en Party, how would you respond?

WORSHIP

Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God.

You could try this...

Spend time in quiet.

Read through Psalm 23 out loud. Then read it through individually in silence. Each spend time thinking about your life at the moment. Pay attention to any verse that particularly jumps out at you. Do you sense God saying anything to you through it?

You could then read through the Psalm again or sing one of the versions of the Psalm together.

WORD

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Discuss your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?
- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?



Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)

- What does it mean to be 'strong in the Lord and in his mighty power' (v10)?
- How do you feel about the idea of a 'devil' (v11)?
- What 'schemes' of the devil could Paul be referring to (v11)?
- Paul writes of 'powers of this dark world' and 'spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'. How easy do you find it to recognise either of these?
- Do you think that we over-emphasise either 'spiritual' or 'worldly' things in our society/ church. With what results?
- Look through each piece of armour (v14-17). What does it mean in practice to put on each of these in our day-to-day lives?

WHAT NEXT?

Paul strongly emphasises the place of prayer, especially for others (v18), in the context of resisting evil.

Pray for Christians who are seeking to bring God's light into areas of darkness in the world –whether internationally or locally.

Jesus urged his disciples in Gethsemane to '*Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation*' (Luke 22:46)

Now pray for one another and for our church –that we would '*not be led into temptation and delivered from evil*'

Try to remember to pray in this way more often on an ongoing basis – as a group & during the week.

Questions of Life

7: Church -What's the Point?

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...

What's the best/worst thing about church?

WORSHIP

Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God.

You could try this...

Verse 9 of today's reading talks of praise to God.

Read Psalm 150

Then each write a few extra lines to go between verses 5 & 6 which are relevant to you or our world today, Now read verse 1-5 again, then each read out your verses in turn & finish by shouting verse 6!

WORD

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Discuss your initial reactions to the passage:

- Does anything in the passage jump out at you? Why?
- Does anything connect with something you've been doing, reading or thinking about?
- Is there anything you haven't noticed before?

Now use **some** of the questions below (*and set a time limit to leave yourselves time to pray!*)



Over 70% of people in the UK say they are Christian, but under 10% are regular church members. So here is a key question that many ask...

- If someone said to you: 'You can be a Christian without going to church, so why should I bother?' How would you respond?
- What help does this passage give in answering this question?

- What does it mean to be a 'chosen people' (v9 & v10), as opposed to a collection of individuals who've made their own choices? How should this shape our view of the church?
- Peter describes us as 'offering spiritual sacrifices' (v5) and 'declaring the praises of God'. How does this fit with one popular view of church as 'meeting my needs'?
- What implications do Peter's pictures of the church have on how you see your relationships with one another (In), others (Out) and with God (Up)?
- How is this passage relevant to our relationships with other Christians –locally and globally?

WHAT NEXT?

Spend time praying for us as a church here at Christ Church, for the church in Alsager, for the church in England & worldwide.

Share any particular areas of concern that you have & talk about what you could do practically in response.

Questions of Life

8: Growing Up-In-Out

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing & sharing together. If you want an ice-breaker, you could try this...

What's been the best thing that's happened to you this year?

WORSHIP

Use music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God.

You could try this...

Put a picture of a plant (or an actual one) in the middle of the room.

Write on leaf shapes some ways that you think you have grown closer to God (up), closer to one another (in) or closer to others (out) over the last year. Hang them on the tree & thank God for them.

WORD

This week is a bit different. This is an opportunity to review the last year, to give thanks and look forward to 2008.

Read each of the following passages, which we have looked at during 2007. For each one in turn, discuss the following:

- What did you find particularly helpful in looking at this passage and the series that followed (as a group & as individuals)?
- Has your reaction to this passage/subject changed?
- Are things you intended to do in response that you haven't yet?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ('Gifts for Growth' Series)

Home Group Notes

Sept-Dec 2007



1 Timothy 6:6-10 ('Stewards of Money')

Luke 5:1-11 ('Good News –Jesus' Way' –Evangelism)

John 3:16-17 ('Questions of Life' –Alpha Themes)

Then: Thinking of the year as a whole...

- How have you changed as a group?
- How have you changed as individuals?
- What are your hopes for the next year?
- What will you do differently?

WHAT NEXT?

Share some of the good/bad things from the past year & some of your hopes for 2008 (for you personally, your friends/family & for the wider community or world). Then pray for one another.