



Small group notes – Week 1

Welcome

Welcome everyone & introduce yourselves.

Worship

It's always good to start in worship. Why don't you ask someone who can play a guitar or another instrument, if they will lead your group in some live worship or choose a couple songs to help lead people into God's presence – we have compiled a couple of playlists with a range of songs for you to use during worship and ministry.

[Riverside Vineyard Youtube Playlist](#)

[Vineyard Worship Spotify Playlist](#)



Video – Part 1



Discussion Question (10minutes)

Paul writes that God's purpose is that the image of Christ is formed in us.

- To what degree have you held this as the vision for your life?
- How does it align with how you spend your time, energy & resources, i.e. your diary & bank statements? Has this been your primary investment?



Video – Part 2



Reflection & Sharing (15 minutes)

Encourage people to think about their own spiritual formation, in the early years of their life (e.g. the first 10-15 years of life)

It may help to write things down

- What was your parents' view of Jesus & church?
- What was your experience of Jesus & church?
- What spiritual things were helpfully formed in you?
- Can you identify any gaps? E.g. Bible reading might have been a gap....



Encourage people to share as they feel able.



Video – Part 3



Reflection & Ministry (15 minutes)

Give people a few minutes on their own, to reflect on what's going on “below” deck in their life

- Are there some things in the dark corners?
- Are there things you're ashamed of?
- Are you aware of thoughts & actions that shock you? What's been formed below deck that surfaces every so often?

Then move into prayer ministry time (* see note below)

If people want to share something they're aware of “below deck”, give a safe space to do that. It's fine if people don't want to. The most important thing is that we invite the Holy Spirit to minister, to shine His light into our hearts, to release the redemptive love of God afresh into our lives.

Take some time to invite the Holy Spirit, praying for each other for a fresh in-filling of His presence, knowing that His power is in His presence.

Next week

Encourage your group to be part of a Sunday service for the next talk and to come back next week.

* Note for small group leaders / hosts:

Prayer ministry time is for prayer ministry not intercession, but what's the difference?

Maybe someone shares that they have a difficult meeting at work tomorrow. Intercession is praying for the meeting, and that's OK. But in our small groups, we want to do ministry. We believe that God's Kingdom is near and can break in at any time, including now. So what does the person need? Wisdom, peace, courage? Ask the Holy Spirit to release these to the person now wherever they are!

A model that we find helpful is **Ask-Pray-Ask** as we aim to pray in the way Jesus taught us.