

Small group notes - Week 4

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.

<u>Riverside Vineyard Youtube Playlist</u>

Vineyard Worship Spotify Playlist

In this week's session, we're going to be doing a lot of listening so encourage people to really listen to the stories of others.



Video - Part 1



Discussion Question (10minutes)

- How did your family handle the birds and bees conversation?! Or was it completely ignored?
- Were there any other influences that impacted your understanding of sex?
- Was sex seen as something positive or negative?



Take some time to read through some of those verses in Gen 2 & 3 esp 2:25; 3:7-10 And then ask a few questions:

- What do you notice about these passages?



- What does it say about our physical bodies, relationships between men & women, sex?

Adam & Eve hide from God, and carry shame.

- How do fear and shame about our bodies affect our relationships with God, ourselves & others?

Video - Part 3

Reflection & Ministry (15 minutes)

"Adam & Eve hid behind a tree, naked and conquered by shame. But Jesus hung on a tree, naked and conquered shame. This is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus, shame doesn't have the last word. Our desires no longer need to be disordered. We can live in the freedom that comes in his name." Rich Villodas

What do you sense God inviting you to do in light of these words?

Take some time to reflect, confess if appropriate and pray for one another.

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 <u>now</u>. So what does the person need? Wisdom, peace, courage? Ask the Holy Spirit to release these to the person <u>now</u> wherever they are!

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