

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?



HOSTing guide

Thank you for HOSTing a WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR? group. Whether you lead one of our regular groups or you are HOSTing a new group for these 7 weeks, we are delighted that you've created space for people to explore this huge question.

A reminder of what it means to HOST:

- H** - Have a heart for people
- O** - Open up a zoom call
- S** - Start a conversation
- T** - Take people on a journey

What on earth am I here for?

The series starts on 14th February for 7 weeks. Each week will introduce a theme on Sundays during the talks (9.30, 11.15 and in kids & youth) and then there will be space to explore the theme further in small groups during the week.

For the series we'll be going through the book of Colossians. The themes come from A Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren and you may find it helpful to read through the book as we go through the series together.

For the small group sessions, we will provide videos and notes to help you and there will be plenty of time to discuss what you've heard.

Schedule

- Week One - What on earth am I here for? (Col 1:15-20)
- Week Two - How can I please God? (Col 3:1-10)
- Week Three - A new family (Col 3:11-17)
- Week Four - Becoming more like Jesus (Col 2:6-10)
- Week Five - Serving our hearts out (Col 1:24-2:5)
- Week Six - Made for mission (Col 1:1-7)
- Week Seven - Sharing stories

Materials

Materials (notes & videos) will be available each week from www.riversidevineyard.com/whatonearth/materials

The videos

(If you are joining Rob and Andy on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, you can ignore this section)

We would recommend you download the videos each week from the above link, so they run smoothly when you share them when you meet.

You will then need to share your screen on your video call (each platform does this slightly differently and then play your video to enable everyone on the call to view the materials.

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If you know you're broadband speed is slow, you may find it easier to send round the videos to people so they can watch directly from their own device
If this all sounds very daunting, you may have someone in your group who might be able to help with this or email rob@riversidevineyard.com

The notes

These will be available as a pdf from the same link as the videos.

Platform

Unless you are joining Andy & Rob on zoom each Tuesday and Wednesday, you will need to decide which platform to use.

Here is a really helpful guide -

<https://www.vineyardchurches.org.uk/resources/digital-small-groups/>

Preparation

Every good thing starts in God's presence. Pray for each member of the group - pray that they would draw closer to Jesus in these 7 weeks and that they'd come away knowing more of their purpose in life. Pray also for yourself as you host your group, pray

Make sure the videos are downloaded and play as they should. Read through the notes and familiarise yourself with the content.

If you are unfamiliar with the platform you are using, you may find it helpful to have a test run before the session

A rough guide on what to do each week: (timings are approximate)

Welcome (5-10 mins)

Help everyone to feel relaxed and make sure they know each other.

Introduce the theme (and recap previous session)

Ask someone to pray

Worship (10-15 mins)

Start by spending some time in worship together. If you have someone who can play a guitar or another instrument, ask if they will lead your group in some live worship or choose a couple songs to help lead people into God's presence.

On zoom you can use 'original audio' to ensure the audio isn't distorted. You will also want to encourage everyone to mute themselves!

Otherwise here are 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](#)

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Main Part – video and group discussion (30-45 mins)

Videos

The video includes the main teaching content for the session. Just plug and play. It will present the theme and provoke discussion, without providing all the answers. In each session there is space for the group to answer the questions so you will need to be ready to pause the video.

Notes

Each week there will be notes provided with a few questions and an outline to the session. Use the notes to help you facilitate some discussion around the group. (I've provided some thoughts on the next page on helping people to share in a small group)

Ministry (15 minutes+)

This is a vital part of each session so make sure you have enough time to pray for one another. This is where we ask the Holy Spirit to come and meet with us & help us to live out what we've talked about.. And remember, the internet is not a barrier to the Holy Spirit moving! (On the next page is a prayer model which will help you to pray for each other in a small group)

Final thoughts

Most importantly, we want you to enjoy this! If you have any questions or need any further support, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or another member of the pastoral team. It's such a privilege to be able to create space for people to explore who Jesus is together. Thank you for all you are doing, Rob.
rob@riversidevineyard.com

SHARING WITH AND PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER

Praying for others in a small group

- Aims
 - We want to do what the Father is doing (John 5:19) NOW, in this moment
 - Prayer ministry is different to intercession
 - We want God's Kingdom to come
 - We want to use spiritual gifts (see 1 Cor. 12-14 – eagerly desire spiritual gifts)
 - Remember our values, e.g. mercy, integrity
- A prayer model
 - We use a prayer model to help us get started and also to train others
 - It is not a formula!!
 - Others “catch it” as we model it to them
 - Our model is based on Jesus and has 3 simple steps: **ASK – PRAY - ASK**
 - i) **ASK** – ask the person what they're asking Jesus to do for them
And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do
 - ii) **PRAY** – like Jesus did
 - iii) **ASK** – what's happening? What are the next steps?

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- Pray for others with your eyes open. We want to see what God is doing.
- Give time & space for prayer ministry
- Don't pray on your own with members of the opposite sex
- Don't give directive words – e.g. about babies, marriages
- Beware of unhealthy or unsuitable attachments

Helping people to share in a small group

There are some helpful guidelines for sharing – we would encourage you to go over these each time that the group shares:

- Share for yourself, not for someone else (especially not a spouse)
- Share for now
- This is a time to listen, not for giving advice or criticism
- Keep confidences within the group
- There is no obligation to share

The aim is to help people share more deeply, being aware of 5 levels of communication:

- Cliché – “I’m fine”
- Reporting facts – “I bought a new shirt”
- Sharing ideas & opinions
- Sharing feelings & emotions
- Self disclosure of dreams, failings, weaknesses & strengths

Some practical tips:

- Go over the guidelines at the start of the evening
- Can go round group or open up to whoever wants to share
- Give everyone the opportunity to share, even the quieter members of the group
- Encourage people to listen
- Don't allow vocal members to monopolise
- Ministry often flows easily from a time of sharing