

Sermon notes for Cell Leaders - Autumn Term

Below are some ideas to use in conjunction with the sermon series over the next 10-12 weeks. I know some groups have already decided what to do for next term and that's fine. There is no compunction to follow these. If, however, you want some ideas for your groups below are ideas for praise, passage, practice along the three themes of Courage, Wholeheartedness and Expectancy. These can be used as you see fit. Obviously you may want to pray, do social action and include other things such as socials in your patterns of meeting.

Courage:

Praise - "I will fear no more" <https://youtu.be/wMmmbJIWhtk>
"I am strong in the Lord" <https://youtu.be/fUQP9EmvJkg>
"Through Christ" <https://youtu.be/HwgT6ggKOrl>

Passages -

Deuteronomy 1:19-38

Joshua 1

Joshua 5:13-6:20

Read through the passage a few times and perhaps use different translations and maybe listen to someone reading the passage online. Then open up for discussion:

1. What did you find surprising about the passage?
2. What did you find difficult about the passage?
3. What words or phrases jumped out at you?
4. What did you discover about God's character in this passage?
5. What did you discover about God's purposes in this passage?

Practice - This is the chance to delve into how the theme affects us individually and collectively. Make sure you do this sensitively, people have very different fears and levels of anxiety, which is worth acknowledging in the group. The following questions can be used:

1. Are you a risk-taker or a cautious person? Has this changed with age/experience?
2. Can you think of an occasion when you had to be courageous. Describe the experience to one another. (this one could take some time and you may want to give everyone in the group an opportunity to do this over several sessions.)
3. Can you give an example of when God has strengthened you or helped you not to be fearful?
4. How does God's promise to be with you help you?
5. Is there anything God is asking you to be courageous in right now?

Wholeheartedness:

Praise - "Whole heart" <https://youtu.be/nqDWJ-8Sk7w>
"With all I am" <https://youtu.be/GYXJmnJCPG0>
"I give you my heart" <https://youtu.be/mZGzu6ol9b4>

Passages

1 Samuel 13:14, 1 Samuel 16:4-13
Psalm 5
Psalm 9:1-2, 2 Samuel 6:12-15

All the passages relate to David so you may want to do something of an overview of David's life as well as questions on the passage. The following provides a good overview if you wanted to do some preparation:

https://www.worldhistory.org/King_David/

The following questions are general ones for the passages on David:

1. What do you learn about David in this passage?
2. What do you learn about God in this passage?
3. What particular parts of the passage resonate with you and why?
4. What might you want to learn about from this passage?

Practice - You might like to look at other Bible verses about being wholehearted such as Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matt 22: 34-40, Luke 10:25-37 (Jesus uses the parable of the Samaritan as an example of wholehearted love for God and others).

1. Where in my life am I wholehearted? (family, friends, work, God, hobbies)
2. What drives me to be wholeheartedly committed to something?
3. How can I become more wholehearted in following Christ? What might that look like for me?

Expectancy:

Praise - Wait on the Lord <https://youtu.be/mFcTFhf9Tj0>

While I wait <https://youtu.be/NswPPVgMaPE>

I will wait for you <https://youtu.be/l8pCbtLeXzc>

Passages:

Matthew 24:36-51

Romans 8:18-27

Isaiah 30:15-26

The passages are quite different from each other. All are worth reading through several times and pondering firstly on what stands out to individuals in the group. Worth knowing that in the Bible the words for waiting and expecting are interchangeable, essentially they are the same in Hebrew and Greek but both suggest an active wait and expectation that God will act but not necessarily in our timing. Then have a think through the following questions

1. What is the difference between waiting and expectation?
2. In the passage is the waiting active or passive and how can you tell?
3. What are seen as the positive aspects of waiting for God in this passage?
4. If you were to pick one word or phrase from the passage, what would it be and why?

Practice: This has the potential to bring up hurt and disappointment if members of your group have felt let down by God with unanswered prayers. It's important to be open and honest about this and acknowledge that we don't always understand why prayer seems to go unanswered sometimes. Some questions to ponder:

1. What have I waited eagerly for in the past? What was the outcome?
2. Have you ever been disappointed in your waiting? Has this affected your ability to trust God now?
3. What are you expecting of God now?
4. How can we wait eagerly and actively? What does that involve?

There may well need to be room for prayers and support as people open up about disappointments and unanswered prayers.