

## SMALL GROUPS IN NOVEMBER:

*Dear All*

*November will look a little different but here is how you could play it:*

### **WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

Have a normal session this week and here is the study suggestion:

It's the end of our series in 2 Corinthians – review some of the talks and think carefully about what has stood out – (it's surprisingly hard to remember so leaders may want to just give a two-sentence summary of some of the previous talks to jog the memory).

Read 2 Corinthians 12.20-13

On Sunday we were talking about conflict. We said that it was worth thinking about the type of conflict that was before us:

1. Some conflict just simply isn't worth engaging with.
2. Some conflict actually helps keep creative tensions in play and it's helpful that it exists.
3. Some conflict really should be resolved.
4. Some conflict should ideally be resolved but the difference is so great that we have to part ways – the challenge for the Christian is to part ways but do so graciously, humbly and still trying to love our enemies and pray for them (see Acts 15 for any example).

With each of these can you come up with an example?

With conflict in the church we thought it was worth being aware that:

1. Conflict with our brothers and sisters in Christ is painful – it hurts us as we want all things to be well and we want to stay in unity.
2. We do have special things from God to help us: the bible, prayer, forgiveness and healing.
3. We need to acknowledge that sometimes even in the church conflict is necessary but we can do better than the world as we can encourage one another to biblical principles: loving our neighbour as ourselves, preferring the needs of the other, speaking well of one another, being honest, seeking the promotion of Christ above self-promotion etc.

Does anyone have any thoughts or comments on the above?

Look at the following passages and draw out tips they give us when faced with conflict:

James 1.19-25

Philippians 2.3-7

Romans 12. 14-21

Proverbs 16.24-32

Galatians 2.11-14 (when is this kind of conflict seen in the bible and what does it teach us?)

At the end of 2 Corinthians, we find Paul facing conflict rather than avoiding it – it can be very 'British' to avoid conflict – have you any examples in your group when you've been brave to tackle or confront an area of conflict?

In the passage you read we find the following in Paul:

- He is honest and clear.
- He loves the Bride of Christ and wants it to be well.
- He is fearful (not about losing face) but about the destruction that sin brings about.
- He prays.

In what ways can we apply this? How are we doing right now at praying for Christ Church W4 – of loving the Bride?

### **WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup>**

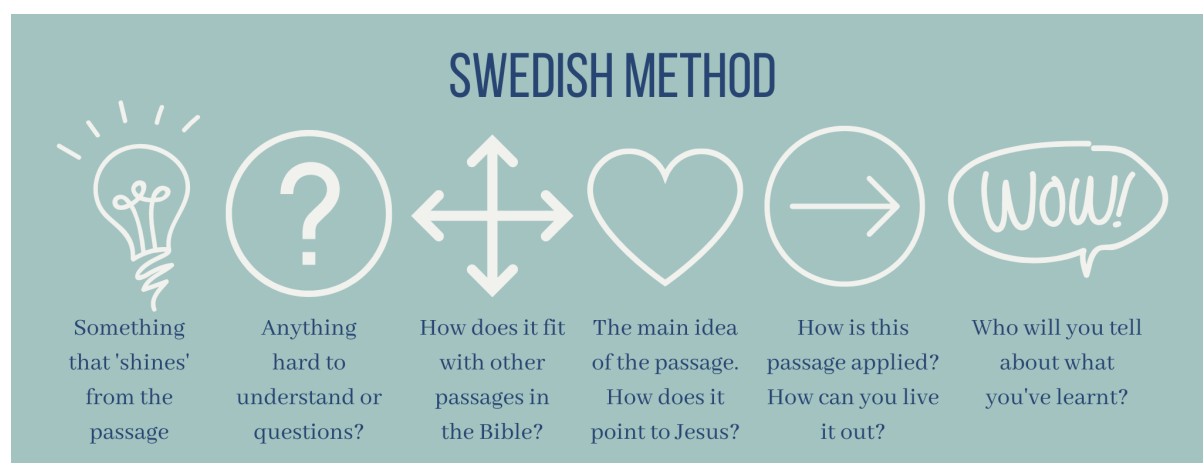
This week it would be great to have a social and/or some extended time in prayer and worship together.

### **WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

Decide if your group will cancel this week to join in the discussions around same-sex marriage – there's no massive push or encouragement to necessarily come as I think it needs to be down to individuals but plan together what you will do.

If your group still meet here are a few suggestions:

1. Watch the shorter pre-recorded online services with the stories from SOMA and pray for our world.
2. Watch some episodes of The Chosen together if you've not yet done so.
3. Read one of the shorter books of the bible all in one go – print it out on paper and give people pens to highlight bits that stood out to them & discuss.
4. Use the Swedish bible study method to look at a passage of scripture that you choose:



### **WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Same as above!!!**