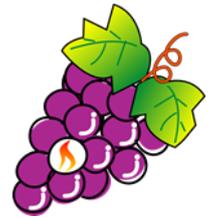




LIFE GROUP PLANNING

Week Beginning: 17th July 2022



Aim of session:

What might God want to say to the group?
How are we to treat other Christians who have different views to us?
How can we make sure we are not being judgemental?

Key Scriptures

If you have access to a commentary read some background to get context.

Romans 14

Warm Up

Psychologists suggest that we sum up and make a judgment about someone we have not met before within 15 seconds. On what basis do we do that? Are those judgements always correct?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

Paul is trying to unite a church, under the rule of Christ, that is culturally diverse and has different expectations and lifestyles. Jewish Christians, who were steeped in law and tradition, that identified them as godly, and Gentile Christians with little or no understanding of Jewish culture, but a simple faith in Christ. Paul sees the Gentile Christians as "strong" and the Jewish Christians as "weak"

1. What do you think makes the Jewish believers "weak" in Paul's mind? Why were the Gentile believers "strong"?
2. Read v1-12: What are the "disputable matters" that Paul mentions? In the passage what does Paul do to try to unite these diverse believers?
3. Read v 13-18: How does Paul encourage the "strong" to help the "weak"?
4. In V1-19 : What does Paul mention as priorities for the Church? (v1, v10, v13, v15-16)

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

5. Make a list of the "disputable matters" that have caused disunity in the Church. How many have a genuine basis in New Testament theology?
6. How do we as individuals and as a church seek to resolve conflict over disputable matters?
7. How can we ensure that faith in Jesus remains the main thing in a diverse church like VBC?
8. Read v 17-18. What does this verse mean for you and for the Church?
9. Is there anyone with whom you need to seek a resolution? Pray about it and then act on it in love.



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.