

INTRODUCTION

Listed below are our five objectives for 2015 as a church. The purpose of this study is to consider how we can apply some of them at a small group level.

Prayer

Commission

The poor

Room for Holy Spirit

Cell life

PRAYER:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

In what ways can we encourage more rejoicing in our small groups? How do you organize worship and should we be giving it greater priority? If so why?

Sometimes our prayer times can move very quickly to petition. What are some of the ways that we can include thanksgiving into our times of prayer?

What are some of the ways we can be encouraging one another to pray more regularly as individuals? Does anyone have a prayer diary or system that might be of benefit to others?

'*Without me you can do nothing*' is a key verse that has been shared recently.

Does anyone have any situations that seem to be going nowhere that would benefit from prayer and Christ's intervention? (Take time to pray for these)

THE POOR:

Read Matthew 25: 31-40

This passage appears to argue that we are saved by our good deeds towards others rather than by God's grace. How might you respond to this?

Jesus is very practical in listing areas such as food, drink, hospitality, personal care and visiting as key areas of Christian service. Which of these areas would you like to develop as a group and individually? How might you do this?

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 8-11

Do you find that the gifts of the Spirit are practised in your group? What might be some of the things that inhibit him from operating more freely?

Go through each of the gifts listed in the passage. What might they look like in a small group setting? Try to give examples.

CELL LIFE OR COMMUNITY:

Ephesians 4:2-3 *with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Quickly identify the key words from this passage that are necessary for community to operate successfully.

Describe imaginary scenarios in which a breach of each of these principles eg. lack of humility, lack of gentleness etc can severely disrupt the community life of the group.

What are some of the ways we can better do community away from just holding formal meetings?