

Small Group Meeting on Psalm 100

Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

Following on from the APCM – what do you want to give thanks for?

Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

Psalm 100

Read the psalm several times in different ways:

- With one reader
- Corporately
- Antiphonally (see below)

As you read, look out for images or phrases that stick with you.

Setting the scene:

- This psalm falls in a section of psalter where the psalms speak of God's goodness and a call to worship (e.g. Pss. 95-98)

Reflect (20 mins)

Pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by sharing the images or verses that have 'stuck' with you. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. How might those verses or images that have 'stuck' influence your mindset when considering your approach to giving of your money, time or gifts?

Q2. The psalm uses words such as gladness and joy in our giving thanks. In 2 Corinthians (8:2; 9:7), Paul uses similar adjectives to describe our attitudes when giving. What adjectives would you use to describe your giving?

Q3. The Macedonians (2 Cor 8:5) are described as giving themselves 'first to the Lord' before their giving financially. What do you think such an approach looks like in practice?

Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by "walking the talk". As we progress through our stewardship month where is God challenging you? What things is he asking you to lay down? What things is he asking you to continue? What things is he asking you to pick up? Be prepared to share these with each other and be accountable to each other in the coming weeks.

Some new challenge ideas

1 Review your financial giving

Giving by standing order or direct debit is very simple to set up. If you are like me, it can be very easy to let such contributions run without stopping from time to time to review them.

Take time to review your giving financially during this week.

2 Review your time

In the light of God's provision (Psalm 104, cf. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) how are you using your time?

(Between the services on Sunday there will be an 'Opportunities Fair', showing the places that Christ Church engages locally. Come prayerfully)

3 Review your gifts

What gifts has God given you? How are they being used in God's service in your household, in your workplace (or equivalent), in the life and ministry of Christ Church and the wider church?

Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you continue to review your stewardship. Pray, too, for the new Church Council as it continues to discern the things that God is calling us to collectively as a church.

Antiphonal Version of Psalm 100

ALL: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

GROUP 1: Worship the LORD with gladness;

GROUP 2: come before him with joyful songs.

GROUP 1: Know that the LORD is God.

GROUP 2: It is he who made us, and we are his;

GROUP 1: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

GROUP 2: Enter his gates with thanksgiving

GROUP 1: and his courts with praise;

GROUP 2: give thanks to him and praise his name.

GROUP 1: For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever;

GROUP 2: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

ALL: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.