

Good Soil

A place for growth and nurture

from the Market Harborough Methodist Circuit

Extra: HOW ARE WE GROWING?

INTRODUCTION:

Today's small group session is aim is to have a light discussion on our growing in faith together and to gather some feedback about how "Good Soil" is processing so far. There is the option to discuss now with the group leader taking notes or to provide feedback on the form. The feedback is really important to especially as it's the first time we have prepared anything like this and we hope to learn and grow from the experience. We are in the fortunate position of being able to adapt the material to suit the needs of our congregation.

BIBLE VERSE

"We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." (St. Paul, writing in 2 Thessalonians 1: verse 3)

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for this opportunity to gather together
and be in your presence.

Thank you for the sunshine we have been experiencing lately
and the benefits of this in ourselves and all nature around us.
May we continue, like nature, to be renewed
and grow in your presence. Amen

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

We hope that *Good Soil* will be a long-term resource for our churches,
so that small groups can feel confident in finding suitable material for
fellowship and growth. We would love your feedback in making this
work to meet our different needs and learning styles. Please think
about the following questions:

What aspect of *Good Soil* have you enjoyed most so far?

The material offered?

The topics covered?

The fellowship of the group?

The venue?

A deepening faith?

The hosting and hospitality?

Anything else?

In terms of the material, is there anything that you would like to see *more* of?

.....
.....
.....
.....

We know we produce quite a lot of 'food for thought' each week.
This is of course optional, and only suggestions. **Is there anything
you would like to see *less* of?**

.....
.....
.....
Are there any future topics that you would like to explore?

Perhaps **general themes** such as justice, friendship, poverty, relationships, pride, anger, salvation, heaven, ‘what does it mean to have faith?’ Or any ideas of your own.....

.....
Or **understanding church and faith better**... themes such as: baptism, holy communion, reading the bible, how do I pray?, different religions or denominations. Or anything else

.....
Or looking at **particular books of the Bible** in more detail?.....

.....
Are you being encouraged or growing in your faith through these *Good Soil* sessions? Or it might be too early to tell....

.....
Is there anything that you think might help the group to develop further? Do you have any thoughts on how to deepen faith? Any previous learning and experiences? Please let us know....

PRAYING TOGETHER

You might like to close the session by praying together about some of the things you have been discussing: our growth in faith and the growth of our churches. Or pray for any particular needs in the group, or the needs of the world. Remember, not everyone feels comfortable praying out loud (but someone might volunteer to lead this time together), and silent prayer is just as valuable to God. Perhaps close by sharing **the Lord’s Prayer**.

SEND US FEEDBACK

Please use this page to write down (anonymously if you wish) any thoughts or comments you might have. Do you feel comfortable in your group? Is there anything we can do to help? We encourage you to contact us if things are not working for you or you would like to talk about anything.

(if you wish you give your name)

NAME.....

PHONE NUMBER

Please send any comments to Mel Wheeler at Mkt Harborough Methodist Church Centre, Northampton Rd, LE16 9HE.