



Piloting the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community Session Two: Growing in your small group

Aim

To help potential leaders in the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community know how to help their groups discover a specific vision for the mission God has given them.

WELCOME (10 mins - Sarah)

Share one of your dreams for the future (personal or one you share with a group).

WORSHIP (10 mins - Rachel)

Listen to Jeremiah 29.11-14 as it is read.

Worship God for his character shown in this passage, as you are led into a time of remembering how God has already blessed you and given you hope for the future. This may include reflective music, lighting candles or other aids to create a reflective atmosphere.

WITNESS 1 (15 mins - Dave)

If possible, share something you are working at (or have done recently) with a small group or team to share God's love.

WORD (30 mins - Chris)

Jesus had a vision: He knew exactly why he had come to earth.

Read Luke 4.18-19 and Luke 19.10.

Split into groups of three and work together to create Jesus vision statement/mission statement in your own words. (Flip chart paper and pens provided).

Come back together and share briefly. Ask the group: when have you personally experienced the results of this mission statement? In which area of your life would you like to see more of this? Get into pairs and pray about this for each other.

WITNESS 2 (15 mins)

If you are not sure of the mission vision of your small group, start work on this before next time:

What, specifically, does God want us to do together? Pray and wait for God to speak and then discuss the possibilities. This may take more than one meeting – work together to produce a simple statement of your purpose/vision which is owned by the whole group. It should include a dimension which states the group's purpose for outreach and another dimension about the group members themselves growing in discipleship.

Evaluation (Sally)

1. Recap the definition of a value and the link between values, beliefs and behaviour. What is the link between values and vision?
2. As an example of working with a vision, evaluate why this group of potential leaders happens and what is its vision. How are we seeking to achieve this goal?
3. a) What is the mission vision for a small group you are currently part of or hoping to start? For example, is it to reach out to a particular group of friends, a workplace, school or neighbourhood?

b) Do you think everyone in the your small group shares this vision? How are you working towards this vision together?

c) What is the vision for growth in discipleship in your small group? How are you working towards this vision together – for example have you committed to be open/accountable with prayer partners or within the whole cell?
4. Share out the 4 Ws for next time.

Growing in God

This initiative is the result of the partnership of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich with Rural Ministries. It is open to Christians of any denomination or stream.

