

Week 1

Value: Encountering God

Welcome

Tell the group three things about yourself which they do not already know — one of which is untrue.

Ask the group to guess which one you have made up.

Worship

Go around the group asking each person to say something about the character of God which they appreciate, and why it is particularly relevant at this time.

Lead a time of thanking God for these aspects of his character.

Word

Goal: to highlight our motivation for the choices we make. If Jesus comes first in our lives our motivation to be obedient will show in the choices we make.

Ask the group to think of some significant choices they have made recently. Share some of these with the group, describing briefly the process of their decision-making.

Ask whom they were motivated to please in the decisions they made.

Read John 14:15.

Jesus wants us to be motivated out of love for him.

Ask the group to list some reasons why we should be obedient to Jesus. (For example: Romans 5:6-8. God's love for us demonstrated in Jesus' death. And Deuteronomy 5:33; obedience results in blessing.)

In pairs or triplets, share one area where you are struggling to be obedient to God and then pray for each other. Or, pray for specific choices that are imminent, that these choices will be motivated out of obedience.

Witness

In the same way that we want Jesus at the centre of our own lives, we also want him to be Lord over the area where we live. As a group, identify the strongholds that are standing against Jesus' rule in our area, e.g. materialism, 'religion', pride, educational achievement. Pray together for these to be broken.