

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: October 16th 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Encounter 5: Frontline

Introduction: This talk explored two things: the significance of our everyday lives (our 'frontlines' for the mission of the church and the importance of our gatherings to prepare us to live distinctively there for Jesus.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Colossians 3:12-17

Reflect:

- Ask people to share where their frontline has been this week and what it's been like to be there (*reminder: your 'frontline' is wherever you spend significant amounts of time with non-Christians*).
- What 'clothing' does the well-dressed Christian wear to their frontlines? (3:12)
 - Can group members think of examples of the difference that wearing these clothes has made to their frontline in the recent past?
 - Can anyone share how wearing these clothes is difficult on their frontline? Do any items 'not fit' on your frontline?
- What connection does verse 16 make, between Christian worship and the formation of Christian identity?
 - Ask people to share their own experiences of how gathering for worship with other Christians has helped strengthen them for their life on their frontline.
 - In the talk David suggested that gathering for worship
 - (a) reminds us of our Christian **identity**
 - (b) sharpens our **sensitivity** to the voice of the Spirit and
 - (c) reminds us our God-given **capacity** to serve others on our frontline.
 - Read Hebrews 10:24, 25. In what ways do group members experience encouragement to 'live the life' through gathered worship?
- What do you think verse 17 means when it says that we should do everything - all of life - 'in the name of the Lord Jesus'?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- One commentator suggests that doing everything in the name of Jesus means, that we do everything as his *representative*. In what way does 'being Jesus' representative' help us think about life on our frontlines?
- Ask people to think again about their frontline. Share one thing that you do there. What difference does it make to do that one thing, 'in the name of Jesus'?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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