

# Church-based Care stream

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# Our stream session today

- Continuing the scenario from session 1
- Supporting people in a small group setting, when they have experienced trauma
- Pose questions
- Discuss with people next to us
- Listen to the panel's thoughts



# Meet the panel

- Sophie Gower
- Kenny Larsen
- Helen Morrow
- Andrew Nicholls



# The story so far

- Fairly new individual at church
- Caught in a nightclub fire 5 years ago
- Struggles to be in groups
- Struggles with anxiety
- But has been welcomed at church
- Starting to make connections with church members - starting to enjoy engaging with God at church



# The story extended

- Has begun to share their battle with flashbacks
- Has had a verbally aggressive outburst at a church social where teens were gathered around a firepit
- Sometimes seems to "zone out" when conversation about hard things is taking place
- Has told you of how those in authority mismanaged the fire. There has been "no justice" for anyone.
- Keen to learn, grow, integrate into church
- So the pastor suggests they join your small group



# Discussion

- What is your initial reaction to being asked to welcome them into your small group? What are you looking forward to? What concerns you?
- What questions would you want to ask your pastor?
- What might you want to chat about with the individual concerned? How might that differ from a normal "welcome to our small group" chat?



# The story extended

- Your small group meets in your home in the evening
- You mingle for tea and coffee while waiting for everyone to arrive - your dog is milling around, sometimes your wider family too
- You tend to share news from the week - joke around a bit - most people know each other well
- There's a lot of hustle and bustle but all very good natured and relaxed



# Discussion

- What might be hard about joining this kind of environment? How could you ensure walking in to this environment feels safe and welcoming?
- What biblical principles might undergird your care?



# The story extended

- You're working through the book of Revelation. You've been doing that for a while now and just have the last four chapters to go.
- You lead each week. The conversation is usually fast paced and biblically faithful. With a few red herrings thrown in by another member who is a local councillor.



# Discussion

- What would you want to be attentive to in the passage? What challenges might lie ahead?
- What would you want to be attentive to as you lead the Bible study?
- To what extent do we change how we do small groups "for the benefit of one person"?



# The story extended

- Prayer time swiftly follows. You are diligent to pray home the main points of the passage but also share other prayer requests too.
- People often pray about their kid's schooling or behaviour. Requests for health needs and elderly relatives abound. People rarely pray about their heart or their sin or anything that smacks of shame.



# Discussion

- What impression of this small group might your new friend get from this prayer time?
- Where might you need humility?
- How might they help the whole group grow?



# The story extended

- As the weeks go on, you notice that the individual becomes a little less engaged. A little more withdrawn. A little more distracted.



# Discussion

- Would you approach them individually? How might you approach them?
- What might you ask? (What might you assume!)
- What might you pray for them?



# Concluding thoughts

- More similar than different
- Communication is key
- Sacrifice is beautiful - serve and be served
- Both loving well and learning well are important
- The word will do its work
- Relationships can be transformative
- Ask if you need help!



# Q&A

**Top questions**

Pinned

Newest

Oldest

Answered

There are no unanswered questions.

