

CONNECT GROUP MATERIAL

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Local outreach is taking place on the 20th to the 24th of June. Sign up!
- *Divorce care - sign up on Whatsapp bulletin
- *Prayer night - 2 June 19:00 at the Church Office in Devon Valley

CONNECT

5 min

Connect

Warm-up question:

Would you rather go bungee jumping, sky-diving, or rock-climbing?

Testimony:

Share a testimony of something God has done in this past week? How has he revealed himself to you this past week?

THE WORD

10 min

The Word

Key scripture:

The ROAD method:

R - Read (Ask someone in your group to read the chosen piece of scripture out loud and then ask everyone to read it quietly to themselves one or two more times.)

Encourage multiple translations [NIV/ESV/NLT, or "NLV/1983/1953/2020 vertaling"]

O - Observe (Ask everyone to take about 5mins to write down their observations from the scripture. For example, what makes sense? What doesn't? What stands out to you? What do you find most interesting about what is said or about something that took place in the story? Is there a command to obey, or a promise to believe in?)

A - Ask questions (Ask everyone to take about 5mins to write down any questions that arise from the text and to try and think of the answer. For example, what is the main message being communicated from the text? What did this mean to the original audience it was written for? What does this mean for us today? What does this tell us about God?)

D - Discuss and Do (Share your observations, questions, and answers as a group. Then ask and decide on how you will apply this to your life. What will you do based on the truth that you have heard?)

Scripture: John 14: 25-27 [ESV]

[Jesus:] ²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-9[ESV]

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



Inward Application:

1. What are some areas in your life where you are struggling with fear or anxiety?
2. What do you think are the roots of this fear and anxiety (the deepest underlying causes)?
3. What are some consequences of this and how is it affecting you?
4. What do you think will change/improve if you are delivered from this fear/anxiety?

Outward Application:

1. Discuss what is preventing you from taking hold of Christ's promised peace.
2. Discuss what changes you can make to live a life of peace, free from fear.
3. Commit to fasting and praying about this issue as you press into the freedom that Christ desires for you. Identify specific promises of Christ that you can declare over yourself daily.

PRAYER

Prayer

10min

Take some time to pray for each other to experience Christ's freedom from fear and anxiety, to have an increased understanding of the perfect peace that he provides, and for the loosing of any lies, fears, or sources of anxiety that you have not experienced freedom from. Thank God for his provision, his peace, and his promises and truth.