

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

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### EVALUATE WHAT WE DO (SWOT?)

Five groups

### SUNDAYS

#### *Consider:*

- Do we confess Jesus Christ as Lord.?
- Is what we do on Sunday's bible based ?
- What is the leadership like?
- What is the preaching and worship like?
- How we do communion?
- Is there unity in the Spirit?
- Is it moving forward ?
- Does it, or should it reach out to share Jesus's love with the unsaved ?
- Is the building important?
- Is it, should it be contemporary ?

### OUTREACH/ALPHA

#### *Consider:*

- Do we confess Jesus Christ as Lord.?
- Is what we do bible based ?
- What is the leadership like?
- What is the content like?
- Is there unity in the Spirit?
- Is it moving forward ?
- Does it reach out to share Jesus's love with the unsaved ?
- Is it, should it be contemporary?
- Do we need a presence in Whitfield?

## **HOUSEGROUPS**

### ***Consider:***

- Do we confess Jesus Christ as Lord.?
- Is what we do bible based ?
- What is the leadership like?
- What is the content like?
- Is there unity in the Spirit,?
- Is it moving forward?
- Does it reach out to share Jesus's love with the unsaved ?
- Is it contemporary?

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### ***Consider***

- Do we confess Jesus Christ as Lord.?
- Is what we do bible based ?
- What is the leadership like?
- What is the content like, could it be different?
- Is there unity in Spirit?
- Is it moving forward ?
- Does it, or should it reach out to share Jesus's love with the unsaved ?
- Do we need a presence in the community?

## **MOTIVATING THE CONGREGATION**

### ***Consider:***

- Are the congregation engaged with the meetings?
- Are they actively involved in the service itself?
- What can increase the level of engagement in meetings?
- What can isolate/dissuade people from getting involved?
- Do we have enough people to do everything?
- How could more of the congregation be encouraged to get involved with Sunday School, coffee bar, practical issues etc.?

## **HAVING LOOKED AT THE CONTENT OF THE SWOT ANALYSIS**

- What is closely aligned to the Biblical template of church?
- Where are the significant gaps or opportunities?

### ***What practical and Spiritual steps can we take to move the church forward?***

Obviously some of these things need to be dealt with by the leaders of the various areas we've discussed.

### ***But what is our personal role?***

## **AS CHRISTIANS WE HAVE TWO FORMS OF PURPOSE:**

### ***Firstly - A common purpose of all believers to:***

To be a disciple and encourage other believers in their walk with God

share our testimony with others

Bear fruit (as a result of your ministry)

Love one another (in deed and not just in words)

Walk by the Spirit

### ***Secondly – Your personal purpose:***

1. Your particular gifts and ministries – only you can do

How do we measure up against these criteria?

### ***In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul talks about the gifts of the Spirit***

In Deeper 1 you were encourage to seek to understand what your gifts were. For some of you that may have been a successful process and you have an understanding of what God is calling you to do. If that's the case then I would encourage you to step out into those gifts because the Church needs them.

### ***In fact the church is poorer if you don't!!***

But, if God hasn't come to you in a blinding flash of light, or spoken to you through prophecy about a specific ministry or gift then don't worry! The most important thing is to carry out those things that are the common purposes of God for a believer – and to do them the way God has made you. I've found through my life that if God's next step for you isn't clear, then keep on doing what you're already doing to the best of your ability.

Some of us are much more outgoing than others, some a studiers, some are more practical in our approach, others encourage. God has given you a character and a personality and ( unless you've got some major personality defect ) that's the way God wants you to serve him. Don't try to change or be like someone else. God made

you as you are and that is the way he wants you to serve him. But make sure that you are carrying out those common purposes -

- To be a disciple and encourage other believers in their walk closer with God
- Share our testimony with others
- Bear fruit (as a result of your ministry)
- Love one another (in deed and not just in words)
- Walk by the Spirit

That means spending time with God and allowing him to lead and guide us day to day. And in doing those things I believe God develops and brings clarity on our gifts and callings as we become better disciples.

God's calling on our lives is a living thing, it isn't an objective that we achieve and then get a certificate. Our walk with God is a journey that won't be complete until we meet him in heaven. So for each of us seeking what God wants for us next is an ongoing process.

## **SUMMARY**

As a church we are moving forward, but we've identified that there are gaps and opportunities before us that we need to seek to address.

The question I'm going to leave you with tonight is:

***Understanding what your own personality, the gifts and callings you have - How can you be a part of closing some of those gaps and exploiting some of those opportunities?***