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## Lent 2020: What is God's Vision for Eastleigh Parish Church?

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### DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS MATERIAL

#### Session 4

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#### SUGGESTED ORDER/OUTLINE FOR THIS SESSION

1. Time of worship (10-15mins)
2. Recap/Feedback (10mins)
3. Bible reading & discussion (45mins)
4. Prayer (15-20mins)

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#### Important Notes

- ! PLEASE keep a brief note of any helpful points that might emerge from your group's discussions during Lent. This could be done on behalf of the whole group, or as individuals (or both). You'll have the chance to share from these notes with the wider church on Palm Sunday and beyond.
- ! Try to involve the whole of the group in your discussions.
- ! The discussion questions are far from perfect... As leader, once you've got a sense of the direction of the questions overall, please feel free to lead the conversation as you see fit.

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#### Section 1: Worship

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Please worship together in way that is most suitable for your group. Here are a few *suggestions* that you might find helpful:

- Read Revelation 14:1-5 aloud, and then meditate on these verses in silence for a few minutes before singing or worshipping in another way.
- You could consider using one or more of these songs:
  - Worship the King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAyKmYD2Zg8>
  - All I Once Held Dear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxpPla-BskY>
- You might find it helpful to read a Psalm aloud together; perhaps Psalm 145.

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## Section 2: Recap

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- Please remind your group that the aim of these sessions is to ask the question, “Heavenly Father, what is your vision for Eastleigh Parish Church?”
- During last week’s session we talked about the role and the challenges that there are in being a leader and in being led. We also used a ‘SWOT’ analysis (the 4 boxes) to help appraise our own life and that of EPC.
  - Since last week’s discussion on this topic, have you had any new thoughts that you’d like to share with the group?
  - In particular, has God shown you any specific steps we might take to renew our vision (both the whole of EPC and your personally) in these areas?

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## Section 3: Bible Reading & Discussion Questions

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*N.B. As always with DG discussions, please ensure that no one is made to feel that they must share anything with the group that they don’t want to.*

### Discussion Part 1 (c.10-15 minutes)

On Sunday, we read John 12:38ff and Ian talked about disciples being those who are prepared to follow Jesus anywhere that he might lead them – even to a situation in which there appears to be no hope (which in this instance was the grave of a person who has been dead for days).

- *N.B. you might want to read the Bible passage together.*
- What else can we learn about being a disciple from this episode in Jesus’ ministry?

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### Discussion Part 2 (c.30mins)

- Please read Matthew 4:18-22.
  - If this were the only Bible passage to deal with the issue of being a disciple, what are some of the things that we would want to say about the nature of discipleship?
  - What other Bible passages spring to your mind about how Jesus led his disciples? And what are some of the things that we would want to say about discipleship as a result of these passages that you’ve just shared?
- In the light of your discussion so far, is there a particular element of ‘being a disciple of Jesus’ that needs to be addressed:
  - In your own life?
  - In the life of EPC?

During the week, Ian sent every member of EPC a letter/email with an outline of the “Spitfire Vision” that he mentioned on Sunday.

- Please invite your group to look at the letter/email, and the pictures in particular (the pictures are also included at the foot of these notes).

- Which of the pictures of the Spitfire do you find most interesting? Why? What does it suggest to you?
- Please explain that in the coming weeks, we're going to use the picture of a Spitfire to help illustrate various aspects of how we can be disciples of Jesus in the UK today.
  - Is there another aspect of the Spitfire that resonates with you that can be used to illuminate what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? If so, what is it?

### Note to the Group Leader:

- When appropriate, please bring this discussion to a close.
- Please ask the group to keep a hold of their notes in readiness to refer to them on the Palm Sunday whole-church vision day/morning.

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### Quiet Time

Explain that, just like previous weeks, we're going to have a moment of quiet prayer to regather our thoughts and to invite God to speak to us. **PLEASE BE SURE TO DO THIS! Don't be tempted to rush ahead.**

- Please invite the group to be silent for a whole minute. (*You might like to open your hands in your laps as a way of saying, 'Lord, I'm listening'.*)
- When you've had your quiet time, invite people to share/jot down any final thoughts.

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### Section 4: Prayer

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- Please spend some time praying for:
  - The specific needs of your group;
  - Any themes/topics that may have emerged from your discussion tonight; and,
  - The PCC COVID-19 Action Plan.
- Now is a good time to pray the Lord's Prayer together.
- Finally, please end your time of prayer using the suggested prayer for Lent from this week's Outlook:

*"Dear Heavenly Father, what is your vision for Eastleigh Parish Church? Please give us ears to hear, hearts to care, and the willingness to respond to all that you show us. Amen."*

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### Section 5: COVID-19 Action Plan

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- Please double-check that all your group have a copy of the plan; know how to access the help they may yet need; and have begun to consider how they can help going forwards.

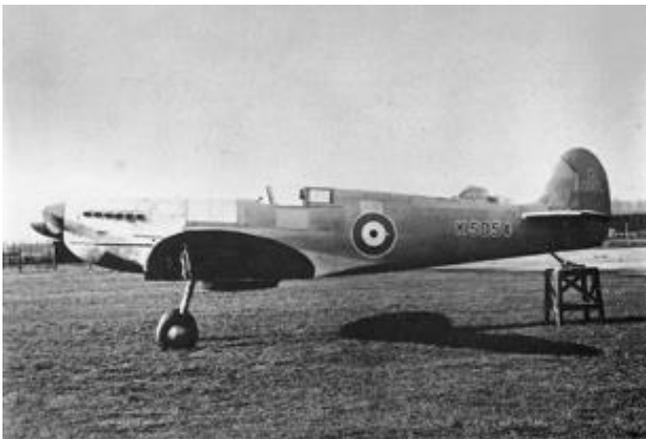
*The Spitfire Photos Shared on Sunday*



The Spitfire



The MkIII, development & setbacks



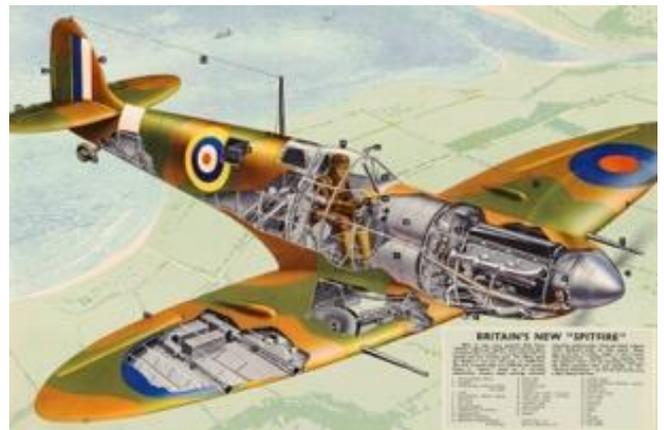
Mk 1, Day 1, 1936 at Eastleigh Airfield



Squadrons & variations (N.B. the top most plane is a Hurricane, not a Spitfire!)



An early flight



One plane, many parts