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

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### DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS MATERIAL

#### Session 3

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#### SUGGESTED ORDER/OUTLINE FOR THIS SESSION

1. Time of worship (10-15mins)
2. Recap/Feedback (5-10mins)
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 later in Lent.
- ! 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 Philippians 2:5-11 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:
  - Good Father, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ak00oFBw3c>
  - Great are you Lord, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZqV6i98SkA>
- You might find it helpful to read a Psalm aloud together; perhaps Psalm 27.

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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 importance of Scripture and New Beginnings in the life of a healthy church.
  - 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 in these areas?

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## Section 3: Bible Reading & Discussion Questions

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

1. On Sunday, we read Exodus 17:1-7 and Ian talked a little about some of the challenges that Moses faced in leading the Israelites (*you might want to read the passage together*).
  - If you had a choice, would you prefer to be a leader or a follower? Why?
  - Do you like being led? Why/why not?
  - How did the Israelites’ willingness (or lack thereof!) to be led affect God’s plans & purposes for them?
2. How might your reflections from question 1 (re willingness to be led) be applied into the context of:
  - Your own personal walk with God? (You might not want to answer this aloud!)
  - Eastleigh Parish Church as a whole?

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

- You will need to print enough copies of the final page for each member of your group.
- Explain that you’re going to work through a ‘SWOT’ analysis of a) your own walk with the Lord, and b) Eastleigh Parish Church as a whole.
  - ***Please emphasise the point that no one need share anything with the group that they don’t want to.***
  - Please ask the group to keep a hold of their sheet in readiness to refer to it on the Palm Sunday whole-church vision day at St Francis.
- Please work through the SWOT sheet (at the foot of this document) as a whole group.
  - ***Please be sure to read aloud the Bible verses for each section as you go.***
  - Encourage people to talk and discuss things as you go.

### Note to the Group Leader:

- When appropriate, please bring this discussion to a close.
- Explain that, just like the past 2 weeks, we’re going to have a moment of quiet prayer to regather our thoughts and to invite God to speak to us.

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- 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'.*) **PLEASE BE SURE TO DO THIS!**
- When you've had your quiet time, invite people to share/jot down any final thoughts.

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- When appropriate, please bring your discussion time to a close. Please remind/invite everyone to keep a note of their thoughts/ideas from tonight's session.

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#### *Section 4: Prayer*

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- Please spend some time praying for:
  - The specific needs of your group, and;
  - Any themes/topics that may have emerged from your discussion tonight.
- 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."*

Things to give thanks for (strengths) 1Cor 1:4-9, Philippians 1:3-6		Issues to address at the right time (weaknesses) James 1:12, Matthew 26:41	
<i>Your own life</i>	<i>EPC as a whole</i>	<i>Your own life</i>	<i>EPC as a whole</i>

Possible new directions (opportunities) Hebrews 12:1-2, John 4:34-38		Potential bumps in the road (threats) Ephesians 6:12, 1John 2:15-17	
<i>Your own life</i>	<i>EPC as a whole</i>	<i>Your own life</i>	<i>EPC as a whole</i>