

IT Happens Small Group Conversation - DIRECTIONLESS AND DEMOTIVATED

Try keep this conversation no longer than 45 minutes - it is no good sending people home exhausted from just talking for too long. Keep the conversation moving and upbeat. Don't let people take the group off the topic. Do your best to draw out the contributions of quieter people. Land the time in prayer, but remember to gently coach people who haven't prayed in a group before. There is no pressure to pray aloud.

Get to know each other

Option 1. Share with us what it is that you are most looking forward to at the moment? In the next few days, or months what is it that is exciting you?

OR Has anyone ever got hopelessly lost? Tell us about it.

Option 2. Simple map quiz in teams of two. Prepare copies of a page from a street map and hand out one page per team. Call out street names, and whichever team finds the street first gets a point. Best overall team wins (sweets as a reward often *motivates* people!)

IT Happens: DIRECTIONLESS

In today's society we seem to have more options and choices for our lives than ever before. How has this affected the course of your life so far?

Read: **Isaiah 6:1-8**

Isaiah lived as a God fearing and serving man, yet his life changed dramatically when he had an encounter with God. Reading this passage, what changed in Isaiah and how did it affect his life? Discuss.

Here are some points that will help to guide the discussion

- Isaiah had a true vision / revelation of God: his understanding of God shifted from his 'concept' or 'idea' about God to a God-revelation of His ultimate reality.
- God cleansed Isaiah and made him clean (burning coal on lips) so that he was able to stand before God and also so that he could receive a mission from God.
- God gave Isaiah a mission / direction: He gave Isaiah a message to take to the people.
- The ultimate way to find direction is to plug our lives into God. God doesn't just want to give us a career, a partner, wealth etc. He wants to give us a calling/a mission. Wherever there are people, God's got a mission.

In which area of your life do you feel challenged to plug more into God for direction?

OR Share with each other how plugging into God has helped you find direction in your life.

IT Happens: DEMOTIVATED

Key scripture taught from: **Ecclesiastes chapters 1 - 3**

Curing demotivation is an obsession and fascination of our age. Why do you think our society so obsessed with this?

At the centre of demotivation is the motive / reason why we are doing a particular thing. We get demotivated when we perceive the cost of doing something to outweigh the benefit of that action.

Solomon was the richest, most famous and powerful king of his time. He lacked nothing, yet still felt unsatisfied: that life was 'meaningless'. Ecclesiastes records Solomon's search for the meaning of life, yet he found the following things still left him demotivated:

- Knowledge (education and wisdom)
- Pleasures (wine and women!)
- Success and Riches
- Morality (being a good person)
- Career and Legacy

Which of these tends to motivate (or has motivated) you most in your life?

God has set eternity in the hearts of man (Eccl 3:11): finite things cannot satisfy eternal souls! Discuss this statement.

Pray together

Divide into groups of 2. Share with each other in which area of your life you need direction and/or motivation. Pray specifically that we may find our direction in God's mission, and that He would replace our finite motives with His eternal purposes!