

Counter Rev Small Group Conversation based on Matthew 6:25-30

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.

Getting to know each other

- In the last few years, when was the time you experienced the most 'worry'?

Understanding Christ's teaching in Matthew 6:25-30

- *If some of your group did not hear the Sunday message, then play the summary audio clip. Perhaps, for variety, consider playing this at the end of the time - after the discussion.*
- Read verse 25. Jesus clearly speaks of worrying about 'food' and 'clothes'. Do you think these things represent more than just food or clothes? If so, what does 'food' represent? And 'clothes'?
- Notice the opening word, 'therefore'. It means that we do not need to worry because we have obeyed his previous instructions to live for eternal treasure, an eternal vision, and an eternal master (v19-24). What happens if we have disobeyed his previous instructions?
- Read verses 26-30. Jesus calls us to be bird-watchers and botanists? What do we learn from birds and flowers?
- Is Jesus saying that we can 1) lazily make no effort to provide for ourselves, 2) not bother to plan or save, 3) be sure we won't face troubles? If not, how can we be sure that he's not saying that?
- Read verse 27 again. What do you think Jesus means by this? And has it been true to your own experience?

Praying through Matthew 6:25-30

- To build faith for prayer, read verse 30 again. What is Christ's promise to us? Read Psalm 37:1,3-5,25-2 and Philippians 4:6-7 for parallel promises.
- Sub-group people together in the same genders. Ask them to share with each other 1) what they're worrying about at the moment and 2) what not-so-important thing tends to dominate their focus. Then pray with faith for each other in light of what Christ has taught us in this passage.