

Small Group Discussion Questions

A few house-keeping thoughts

Below are the suggested questions submitted by various individuals. If any other questions come up as you read these, be sure to share them with your group. The groups are designed to remain around eight to ten. If they are getting beyond ten you should consider splitting up.

We would also benefit when your reflections and ideas can be shared with the other groups. One way we could facilitate this that each group makes a summary of their main thoughts and that we create a platform (our church website?) to share them.

To refresh your mind, the outline of the topic has been put on the website along with some additional notes. The actual presentation of the topic is also still available on our website.

Meeting time

One of you suggested that instead of selecting one particular date for this group discussion, that each small group communicates among each other to set their own date to meet with the goal we all have our first meetings done before December 5 so we can keep the momentum going.

So each 'host' is requested to initiate ASAP this internal discussion with your small group to set the best date for you all.

Discussion Questions

1. What are our congregation's strengths and weaknesses?
2. How can we see our differences as strengths rather than something that keeps us separated or divided from others?
3. What do you suggest could we do together about weaknesses? How can we better use our strengths?
4. Where does the Scripture (or our doctrines) fit in the analogy of the trellis and the vine? Is the Scripture part of the roots, the trellis, the vine? Or is the Scripture the pruning, sunlight and fertilizer?
5. If God would guide us to start a new church elsewhere in New Zealand, what are some of the things we would or would not do? What do we identify ourselves with?
6. In which way do you think our church Trellis does/does not meet the needs of the vine. What, if needed, can be improved?
7. How much energy is spent on running programs and organizing events, and how much energy is spent on developing people? Is this correctly balanced?
8. How well does this statement describe our church, "Our leaders organize and run all church activities?"
9. Is there a particular category people in our congregation that is 'forgotten'?
10. If the trellis supports the vine, then the trellis is the Lord as He is the source and strength of His people. So how do we understand that in a church the trellis is the church leaders/ consistory?

11. What are the main purposes of a trellis in relationship to the vine? And how does that apply to our church family?
12. Is only the consistory having a task here? If that is not who else and how must we bring this work into practice?
13. We need a gospel community that is pro-active. What are examples of this in our current setting?
14. Thinking about the trellis. The trellis is made up out of lots of posts. It is good to put one vine to one trellis post. So much we focus on one person, a group or on the whole church?
15. As was mentioned, the danger of apostasy is only one generation away. How do we prevent apostasy from creeping in?
16. In what ways is a church supposed to stay the same, and in what ways is a church supposed to change (grow)?
17. What does to be proactive instead of reactive mean practically?
18. How do we encourage growth in our “communion of saints?”

Proposed Groups

Masterton: Robert and Jodi’s home:

- Joost and Jannete
- Martijn and Stephanie
- Eric and Sarah
- Maarten & Kaitlyn

Carterton: Sander & Berdien’s home:

- Willy and Sally
- Bas and Jessica
- Ben and Anne-Marie
- Nelly Slabbekoorn

Carterton: Pastor and Michelle’s home:

- Wayne and Karin
- David and Josje
- Floris, Sander, Roger
- Johan and Emily

Carterton: Ronald and Nelly’s home:

- Stefan and Niki
- Otto and Lia
- Dan & Julie
- Ada