



COVID-19 and the Christian

Homegroup material week 5 - Reimagining the Church

SERIES OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The primary aim of the series is to unpack issues clouding our judgement and ability to discern an appropriate Christian response to the ongoing pandemic. Where necessary the series will refer to required facts and compare established facts against untruths in its attempt to give as much clarity as possible. However our aim isn't to give answers on controversial medical issues such as; is the vaccine good or bad? The series will rather focus on giving the required clarity for Christians to explore what it means to live ethically during the ongoing pandemic.

EPISODE 5 - Reimagining the Church

In this final episode we explore the ethical responsibility of the Church in response to the ongoing pandemic. We note the need for the Church to begin to adapt and reimagine what it means to be Church and to "do Church", as a way of meeting the needs of people both now (in the pandemic) and in a post Covid-19 world. Some points for discussion:

- 1. The Church adapting vs. the Church's resistance to adaptation to the new emerging world .i.e. Artificial Intelligence and ministerial formation and training.*
- 2. Ethical stewardship over that which is entrusted to us and can make a difference in another person's life (focusing on the Church as the body of believers rather than an institution).*
- 3. The place of tradition in the Church: how do we hold these traditions and still allow for the adaptation of the Church in order to ensure its relevance.*

This week's Hot Topics episode can be found here: <https://youtu.be/81rZJtrgIDo>

QUESTIONS/ POINTS OF DISCUSSION FOR HOMEGROUP/ SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- 1. In the conversation, the statement is made that; throughout history the Church has been resistant to change, sometimes at the expense of reaching people and maintaining the relevance of faith and community in people's lives. How do you feel about this statement? What time periods in history come to mind? What causes the Church to be resistant to change?*
- 2. At times the Church's hesitation to change, has meant that people are excluded or isolated from the Church space (for example: In some churches unless one is physically able to attend the Sunday service, one will not be able to worship with the community). Do you believe there is a need for the Church to activate change and reimagine Church so as to include, welcome and care for people in a greater way? How does the Church hold tradition sensitively while adapting?*
- 3. Reflect on the statement: Tragedy always provides clarity on what our priorities are and should be.*
- 4. Rev. Molo raises that as the Church, we should be creatively and collaboratively asking: what is the place of faith and religion personally and corporately, what does it mean to be a family and community when proximity is not possible and how do we fulfil the human need for care, connection and healing etc. The overarching question is: How do we generate a way that says how do we implement life enhancing ways which transcend physical life, but lead us to a life of Christ; life in abundance (John 10:10)?*
- 5. What are some of the implications of the reimagining of what it means to do and be Church? (For example: there is a need for an adapted response to ministerial formation which responds to the 21st Century issues). What does it mean for the Church to shift their focus from "dogmatic purity" to a "praxis of liberation and love"?*
- 6. Along with the process of reimagining the Church, the Church needs to remain prophetic and driven by Compassion and Justice. What are some issues of justice, for example: accessibility of some and not all to internet (access vs. lack of it), which need to be addressed by the Church within its process of reimagination and adaption?*

SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR GROUPS

The aim of the conversation is not to impose a particular truth onto the viewers, but to encourage and equip them on how to engage these topics, in such a way that produces ethical behaviour among Christians and especially Church attenders.

RESOURCES/ CONTACT INFO TO SUPPORT DISCUSSION

If you would like more information, clarity or like to have a chat with the Hot Topics team, please do not hesitate to contact us at: hottopics@gracepoint.co.za