

# EVERYDAY GOD

## Leaders' Notes



### **Introduction**

At the beginning of the course you will need to explain to group members that what is discussed each week is confidential to the group.

Group members might find it useful to have name labels, especially if not all the group know each other.

You will need to use the Icebreakers flexibly and to dispense with them as the group gets to know each other better (or if they are an established group with a different pattern).

After the scripture reading you may wish to ask group members if they would like to share any thoughts about the preceding Sunday's sermon.

Try and allow plenty of time for worship and prayer each week so that people don't feel rushed.

Timings are suggestions and might not always add up to 90 minutes!

### *Week 1 – Baptism and Wilderness*

#### **What you will need**

- paper
- pens
- sticky tape
- Post-it notes
- bowl and jug of water
- a large candle

## **Icebreakers**

### **Something about you:**

Go around the group and ask people to say their name and give some piece of information about themselves. You can choose what it should be, perhaps their biggest memory of Easter, their favourite place, the thing they can do that people might not know about.

### **First Impressions:**

Stick a piece of paper on your back with some sticky tape and give everyone a felt tip. Each person has to write a positive first impression, something nice about each person on their back. You may like to play some appropriate music while this takes place and note that only positive things are allowed. Even if it is "nice jumper" that would be good!

When everyone has written on everyone's bit of paper then collect the pens so no comments are traceable! The people can take off the pieces of paper and read the comments. Each person should read out the one they like best, or that touches them most.

This helps everyone to move, to encourage, to speak and to be affirmed at the beginning.

At the end of the session, remind people to bring the small crosses given out in church on the Second Sunday of Lent to next week's session.

## **Baptism**

If one or more of your group has not been baptised, you will have to handle this sensitively.

NB This is particularly appropriate with ecumenical groups (eg Salvationists do not practise the Sacrament of Baptism).

## *Week 2 – Take up your Cross*

### **What you will need**

- Large sheets of paper
- Marker pens
- Some different Bible versions (for *Adulterous Generation* section)
- Pens and paper (for *Discipleship* section)
- Bowl with some water in (for the prayer-time)
- Small crosses to hold (spares for those who don't bring one to the group – see Worship and Prayer Ideas)

### **Wordplay**

If people are struggling to think of examples, try suggesting some computer-related examples ('mouse', 'icon', 'desktop', etc.) or Prayer Book-related examples (e.g. 'prevent', 'miserable sinners', etc.).

## ***Discipleship***

Try to encourage people to be practical and focused on 'daily life', rather than thinking of 'churchy' areas. For instance, encourage people to think about these sorts of things:

- how we spend our money
- how we relate to other people
- the jokes we tell (or laugh at)
- our care for our environment and *the* environment.

## *Week 3 – NEAR God ... God NEAR*

### ***What you will need***

- Post-it notes
- Pens
- Two large sheets of card
- Cardboard boxes or wooden blocks to make a small wall

### ***Reflection***

There are three sets of questions. We suggest you use only one of these sets for reflection.

## *Week 4 – Friends and Mothers*

### ***What you will need***

- Post-it notes (preferably heart shaped)
- CD or tape of reflective music

It might be very difficult for some people to speak about their memories and experiences of love and mothers. Be gentle and sensitive with the group.

There is also a musical version of the prayer of St Theresa by John Michael Talbot.

Encourage people to read the alternative readings before next week's session.

## *Week 5 – We want to see Jesus*

### ***What you will need***

- Paper
- Pens
- A selection of pictures of Jesus. You might use 'The Jesus we Share' resource pack

- Cross for the prayer time
- T lights

***Icebreaker***

If people do not have a pet, they could describe themselves through the eyes of a friend or neighbour.