

<p>Theme & Passages</p>	<p>Growing Together: Personhood Psalm 139, Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13–16, Romans 5:6-7, 2 Cor. 5:14–15, 1 John 4:7–12, Genesis 29: 14b–35</p>	<p>Notes prepared by Steve Elmes & Neil Casey</p>
<p>Welcome (10 mins)</p>	<p>Think of time when you felt valued Think of a time when you felt the opposite</p>	
<p>Working with God (15 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care</p>	<p>Take some time as a group to share how group members have got on with last week's Working With God encouragement. Ask people to share their experiences of praying everyday for someone they find difficult or irritating? And ask how extending an act of kindness to that person went? What did they do? How was it received? Encourage people to continue to pray and to seek out other opportunities to extend kindness to them.</p> <p>This week we want to turn our attention to Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign that, as a church, we have been supporting this year. To find out more about the campaign please visit https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign This week has been set aside as a week of prayer and action as part of the campaign to global plastic pollution. We are asking small groups to commit to praying every day for the coming week for a global agreement to end plastic pollution, and for an end to the negative consequences for those most affected by plastic pollution:</p> <p>Day 1 - Pray for a Global Agreement to end plastic pollution</p> <p>Day 2 - Pray for Churches and Movements on the frontline tackling plastic pollution</p> <p>Day 3 - Pray for communities and churches in Recife, Brazil who are badly affected by plastic pollution</p> <p>Day 4 - Pray for environment workers in Bangladesh who are underpaid and have very poor working conditions</p> <p>Day 5 - Pray for communities in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo where plastic pollution regularly causes devastating flooding</p> <p>Day 6 - Pray for ourselves that we change our behaviour and reduce the plastic pollution that we cause</p> <p>Day 7 - Pray for Bookham Baptist Church that we play our part in reducing our plastic pollution and that we may influence our local community to do the same</p> <p>For more information on how to pray for the rubbish campaign please visit https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign/pray-for-the-rubbish-campaign</p>	

<p>Worship (15 mins)</p>	<p>Read Psalm 139 and take time to sit quietly with its vision of God's infinite care and how he values us.</p> <p>You might like to worship with the song, <i>Goodness of God</i>:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvSuGyJQ6oM</p>
<p>Word (20-25 mins)</p>	<p>Last week, Dan opened our series on Growing Together with the theme of kindness. This Sunday, Steve talked about personhood.</p> <p>What is personhood? It is the intrinsic value that each person holds – not reliant on any particular characteristic or competence, but given as a gift.</p> <p><i>Think about how people are valued in everyday life. What measures and criteria are used? For example, physical beauty, bank balance, character, etc.</i></p> <p>The Bible teaches us that our value lies deeper. Look up and read out the following Bible verses and talk about how these speak of our value as human beings.</p> <p>Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13–16, Romans 5:6-7, 2 Cor. 5:14–15, 1 John 4:7–12</p> <p>A summary might be that we are created in God's image, redeemed at great cost and loved deeply and forever (beloved)</p> <p>Talk about how these truths, if understood and lived out, might transform us as a community and strengthen our involvement in God's mission.</p>
<p>EXTRA</p>	<p>Steve's sermon took in the story of Leah and her journey discovering her valued as one beloved of God. As an alternative to the Word ideas above, you might like to read Leah's story in Genesis 29:14b–35 and reflect together on the journey she makes – from 'unloved' to beloved and free.</p>