**Small Groups Material - Week 3**

**Learning and Growing**

**Welcome** (15 mins) What would you most like to learn?

**Worship** (10 - 15 mins) If you were asked to name only one, what person, event or thing has been particularly significant in your growth as a Christian. Thank God for these as well as all the many ways we have been helped on our Christian journey (eg books, songs, leaders, groups, mission opportunities).

Possible song: O sacred King https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNSYwW3-RFg

**Word** (40 - 45 mins)

**Read Matthew 4. 18 - 22**

1. *Jesus chose twelve men to be his apostles.* What invitations does Jesus give to these fishermen? Reflect on how they changed over the years, what they achieved and the influences on them. (Keep this brief)

2. **Read Phil 3. 12 - 21** twice through using different versions (The Message would be a good one as well as say, NIV))

Using the imagery of a track race, where does Paul picture himself in his spiritual life (vv.12-14)? What are his goals? Comparing your life in Christ right now to a track race, where would you be: sitting on the sidelines, warming up, in the starting blocks, giving it your all?

3. Referring back, what is it that Paul says he has ‘not already obtained’ (v.12)? Why might he say this?

4. *Paul used ‘perfect’ (v.12) to mean mature or complete, not flawless in every detail.* What attitudes to our past, present and future does Paul encourage? (Look at the *verbs*!)

5. *Paul could not tell the Philippians to read the New Testament to see what Christ was like.* Instead, what does Paul urge them to do? As well as looking to others as Christian examples, who are you trying to be an example to?

6. Who would you say the ‘enemies of Christ’ are (v18) in today’s society? What makes a Christian disciple so radically different?

7. In pairs or triplets, ask for honest answers to the question, ‘What things are stopping me from becoming more like Jesus?’ Pray for breakthroughs.

**Witness**

Pray for breakthroughs in the neighbourhood for God’s kingdom. Ask the group to suggest some areas that they are concerned about and would like to see breakthrough.