



Introductory Letter

Dear Salvationists, Adherents, Friends, Employees and Visitors

One of the successful principles of growing churches is that all visitors are incorporated into small groups. The word 'incorporated' is a good one to use. After all, the Bible calls the Church the Body of Christ. Everyone is a member which is important to the whole Body (Romans 12).

Whether you meet at home, in a public café or in a small hall doesn't matter to begin with. What is important is that there are places where we can meet and get to know each other better. Here I can find out what other people are concerned about. Here people will pray for me. Here is a safe space to talk openly about issues of life and faith.

Not all of us are in such a small home group yet. For some, membership in the corps is limited to just going to the Sunday meeting.

The Letter to the Hebrews encourages us with the following words: 'Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds' (10:24).

I would like to give some incentives as I present the ideas for small groups here. The ideas are available from the corps leaders. An opportunity to download a pdf file which you can print yourself will follow.

With these ideas I would like to provide several incentives.

1. Incentives for existing small groups

Perhaps a small group already exists in your corps: a Bible study group, a discussion group or a service team. Then you might decide to work through these ideas for some time to

learn and grow together. Incidentally, you can sometimes arrange an extra meeting of musicians or singers for an exchange of ideas on specific topics.

2. Incentive to join an existing small group

Are there already home groups or something similar in your corps but you still don't belong anywhere? Then ask your corps leader which group would suit you best.

3. Incentives to start a new group

Are there already some groups, but they are not suitable or are too large? Then get together with a few people and give it a try yourselves. Don't worry that you're not 'a leader'. God does not disappoint those who seek him. Your corps leader (and I) will be happy to give you a few tips. I am happy to come to your corps to do a training course.

How you can use the ideas

There are prepared ideas for discussion which you can read and consider together without further preparation.

Use them in the way that works best for you! It is also possible to use them for personal study.

No matter how you use them, I pray that they will help to ensure that we 'all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ' (Ephesians 4:13).

Yours

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