**Small Groups Material - Week 2**

**Everyone Ministering**

**Welcome** (15 mins) What was the best present you ever received? What made it so important?

**Worship** (10 - 15 mins) *Bring a heap of stones, enough for 2 or 3 for everyone in the group* - to build a pile of Ebenezer stones. Read 1 Samuel 7.12. Invite people to remember times when God has given generously to them. Then to take a stone and add it to a pile in the centre of the room as they give thanks to God.

Here are a couple of links for songs if you’d like to then sing in worship.

Give thanks with a grateful heart: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMTmZKotTYw>

Bless the Lord; 10,000 reasons: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\_lRI0E

**Word** (40 - 45 mins)

**Read Romans 12. 1 - 8**

1. What three steps in Christian dedication does Paul give? What are the results?

2. *The picture of the church of Christ being a body is very familiar and often used by Paul.* What features of the body help us understand how a church should work?

3. What should our attitude be to the gifts God has given us?

4. *No list of gifts is exhaustive because God has infinite variety in the way he creates us but this list has been called ‘the motivational gifts’. A motivational gift affects our behaviour, giving us a tendency to act in a certain way in different situations - i.e. the underlying motivational drive.*

Work as a group, or in pairs, to describe each gift (including the motivation that drives it), how it works and contributes within the body of Christ.

5. It is often harder for us to recognise our own gifts - and much easier for others to see them. What gifts do you see in each other? How are you/could you use them to bless others?*(Laurence Singlehurst suggests that remembering times you have found satisfaction with what you have done, or when you have been complimented by others, can help you identify and understand your gift more. This is something group members could do at home.)*

6. **Read John 7.37-39.** How is the Holy Spirit’s presence like flowing water? Give thanks to God for each person in the group and the gifts they share. Pray for an increase in gifts among you as a group.

**Witness**  (15 - 20 mins)

*The group needs to build a list of non-Christian friends to pray for to become Christians.*

Ask each person to name three people who live locally and who are not yet Christians. This needs to be done prayerfully in order to choose those whom they believe God is asking them to build a relationship with. For some group members, this could mean beginning a new relationship with neighbours or even taking up a new interest in order to make contacts. For some, it means changing patterns to make room for these friendships. Do be real and honest with each other!