

Theme & Passages	Living in the Inclusion Narrative Psalm 51:1-12	Notes prepared by Neil Casey
Welcome (10 mins)	How is your Lent going? Ask the group to share some of their Lent experiences	
Worship (20 mins)	Ask the group to sit quietly with their eyes closed. Play How Deep The Father's Love for Us Allow the words and music to wash over the group, and encourage the group to allow the images of Jesus expressed in the words to come to mind. Once the music has finished allow some space for people to pray prayers of worship and thanksgiving to Father God	
Working with God (20 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	This week we are turning our attention to Alpha - Introduction to Alpha . Alpha has become a worldwide evangelism initiative and is one of the five marks of mission in action. Countless people around the world have found faith through attending an Alpha course. Bookham Baptist Church will be running a course April-July. We can help make Alpha successful in two ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first is to pray. Pray that people will come, that they will find faith and begin a lifelong relationship with Jesus as a result. • The second is to invite someone to join the course. Take some time to pray and encourage the group to consider who they would like to invite along to the course. 	
Word (20-25 mins)	<p>Read the passage - Psalm 51v 1-12 Allow a moment or two of silence for reflection David writes this Psalm after he is confronted by the prophet Nathan. David has misused his power, been coercive in sleeping with Bathsheba and then been complicit in the murder of her husband Uriah. Yet David is also described as a man after God's own heart. How do you reconcile these two things?</p> <p>Neil described the "Exclusion narrative" in three ways. The dreadful sinner narrative, the bad Christian narrative and the false humility narrative. Do you relate to any of these? Have you ever thought of yourself as a "dreadful sinner" or a "bad Christian" or used a phrase like "I am only...." to describe yourself.</p> <p>Neil listed four consequences of the exclusion narrative as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we remove ourselves from the relationship - we take ourselves out of the game - we cheapen the price that Jesus paid - we make it about us when it was never about us <p>What do you think he meant by that and do you agree with him? If not, why not?</p> <p>Neil said that God Is the God of inclusion. What does that mean? How is that true for you?</p> <p>Neil said that Living in the Inclusion Narrative of God requires an act of positive resistance on our part. Ask the group to look at Psalm 51 v 7-12. Ask them to put those verses into their own words and to turn them into a prayer of resistance and an appeal to the God of inclusion. Take some time to pray for one another using these new prayers. Encourage the group to pray these prayers daily for the next week, and to share how God has answered them when you next meet.</p>	