

Introduction to the Streams Outlines

These small group outlines are designed to reflect the remaining four streams of our historical Christian faith. These streams are listed below, with a brief description of each one. Reflecting on these Richard J Foster writes:

'We understand only a thin slice of all that God intended for us. Now, frankly this is the result of the way Christianity has developed in our day. People are converted and nurtured in certain traditions: social justice or charismatic or evangelical, for example. And those traditions have genuinely given a certain substance to their lives. But those same traditions have also often kept them from the insights of other great streams of life and faith. So, their vision is partial, it is myopic. They cannot see all that God intends for them.'

Our hope is that you will experience the breadth and depth of our wonderful God as you use these outlines and connect with him in different ways through the richness of the six streams. Exploring other, less familiar, streams enriches and refreshes our faith.

1. The Social Justice stream is based upon compassion and justice in our relationships and the wider society and culture in which we live.
2. The Holiness stream addresses personal transformation and trains us in godliness.
3. The Charismatic stream develops our awareness of the immediacy of God's presence among his people.
4. The Evangelical stream puts God's word in the centre of life and proclaims the gospel.

These outlines are designed around a 4Ws format and are laid out in Microsoft word so you can easily cut and past the parts to give out to members of the group as they lead the different sections of your time together. To help them with this we would suggest you make a copy of *'Help! I am Leading part of my Small Group'* available to them. Click on the link [here](#) to view and purchase a copy.

What happens in a Lightwave Group?

They're all different - but most meet weekly and follow the typical pattern used in these notes and outlined as follows:

Welcome - time to chat and generally "catch up" over coffee or a meal. At some point an ice-breaker question or activity introduces the theme of the meeting. This gives everyone a chance to join in and gives a relaxed feel to the group.

Use the question in the outlines or order a pack of our '*Discipleship Deck Ice Breaker Cards*' by clicking the link [here](#).

Worship – a time to focus on God and become aware of his presence, giving thanks, reflecting on the day and offering it to him, and allowing him to touch and refresh us and to hear his voice.

Use the worship idea in the outline or click [here](#) to order a tin of our '*40 more Creative Worship Ideas for Small Groups*'.

Word - This is the Bible bit. We typically use discussion and activities to help us understand a passage or a subject. Our emphasis is practical - what difference will what we learn make to our lives?

Witness - Showing God's love for our friends and neighbours. This includes praying for the needs of people, giving practical help and providing opportunities for people who want to explore faith. Many Lightwave groups will be the team for a fresh expression of Church such as Messy Church or Cafe Church, which provides these opportunities.

Lightwave groups have a lot of fun together - barbeques, bonfires, Traidcraft parties, children's events, youth laser quest, bowling or cinema. These are great times to invite friends and neighbours, who might not normally feel comfortable getting involved with church events. Three times a year, a county-wide worship and teaching event called 'The Gathering' gives all the small groups the opportunity to meet together.

To help develop the witness part of your group click [here](#) to see our '*40 Missional Ideas for Small Groups*'.

The Values behind a Lightwave Group

"The most important commandment," said Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Mark 12.29-31

These commandments reflect Jesus' values - what was important to him: - a high view of God, a high view of others, a high view of ourselves, and sacrificial love. We believe that these values can be used to set a life-giving framework in which people can grow, and help others to do the same. In Lightwave, they are reflected in a simple "rule of life" for the small groups: -

All Involved - Everyone is included and valued, whoever they are. Everyone has a role to play.

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Becoming Disciples - The purpose of the group is to encourage us to love and live more like Jesus.

Creating Community - We will “be real” with each other - honest about the things we go through ourselves, and will respond in a loving way to each other. Caring for each other enables us to care for our wider community too.

Doing Evangelism - Being as well as telling good news together. Giving other people the opportunity to learn about Jesus (Not everybody likes the word “evangelism” but really it is just about being the very best of good news for people in what we do and say - so we think it is important to understand this word - it does not involve Bible-bashing!)

Encountering God - Meeting with God. It is God who helps us and changes us.

This introductory course takes us through this simple “rule” and seeks to explore how this can help us to “be real” and “be light” in everyday life.

For more resources to help you with your small group click here www.Lightwave.community



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
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 **Growing in God**

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