

The Word and the Common Good



Sessions

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Come, Let Us Build Ourselves A City

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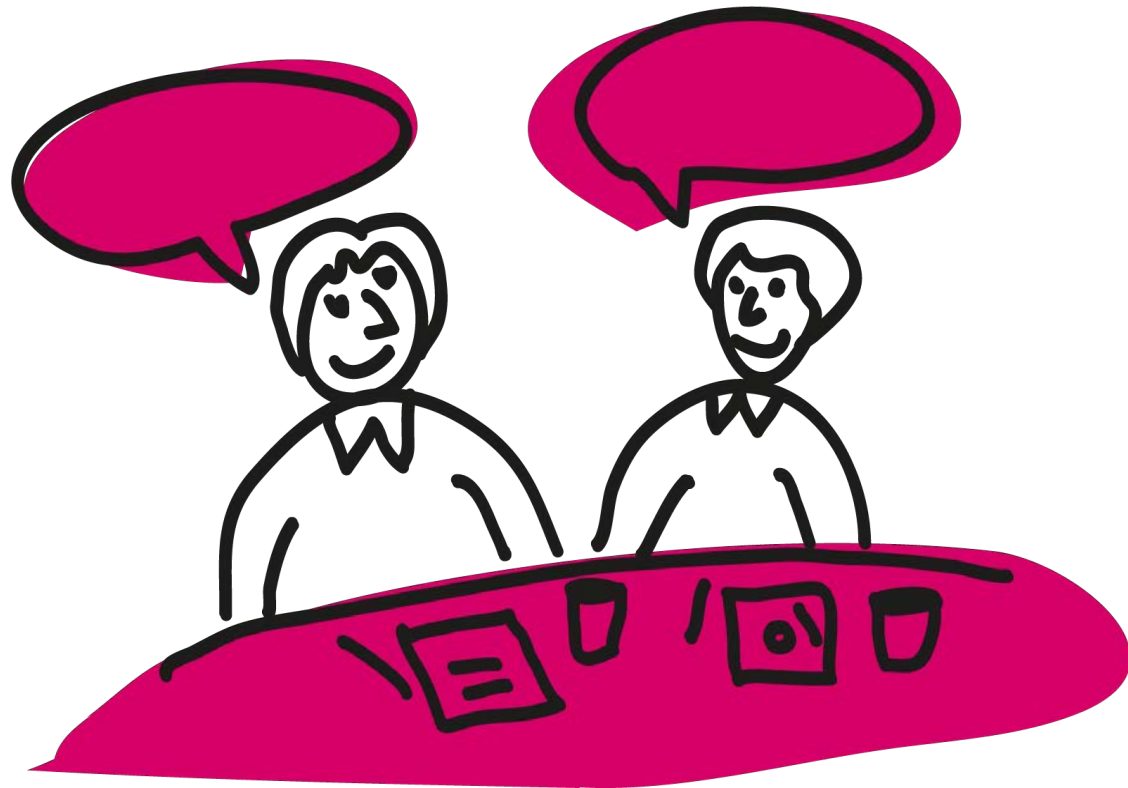
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An Eternal Gospel

Revelation 14.6-7

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Welcome!



Session 1 Outline

All Who Believed Were Together

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Introductions
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Question to take away
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace to do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



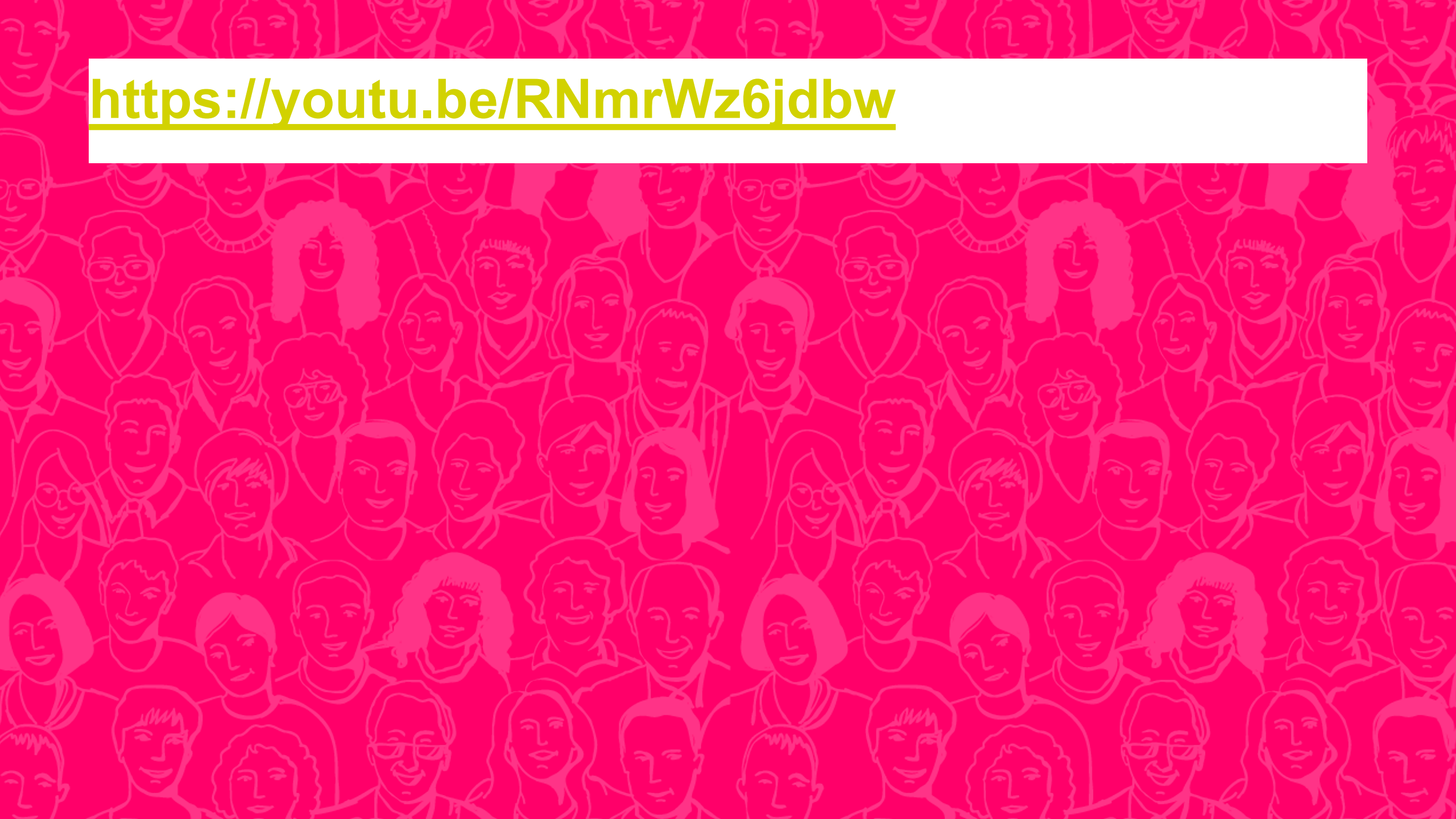
Acts 2.42 - 47

All Who Believed Were Together

‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all their people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.’



<https://youtu.be/RNmrWz6jdbw>



Questions

All Who Believed Were Together

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. What story or image came to mind with the reading?
2. In what ways has God been working to sustain the common life of your church and community?
3. To what extent does your community embody a 'mutually supportive, practical common life'?
4. What do you do already as a community that resonates with this reading? What are your 'wonders and signs'?
5. Rowan Williams once said: 'When you meet another person you are standing on holy ground'. What does he mean, and how does it relate to the passage?



A Question to Take Away

All Who Believed Were Together

The idea of this is to offer you something to ponder as you are out and about in your local community so that the group discussions can be rooted in this reality. It can be something you keep in mind as you are ordinarily out and about, or something you may want to do with others as an intentional activity.

- Where locally is community built? Where do people come together, share their lives and experiences with people in common, and find meaningful relationships?



Closing Prayer

Lord God

Who sends his Spirit upon his people

And builds his church;

Help us to work together,

To build the Common Good,

And so make you known.

Amen.



Welcome!



Session 2 Outline

Come, Let Us Build Ourselves A City

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Reflections from previous session
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Question to take away
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



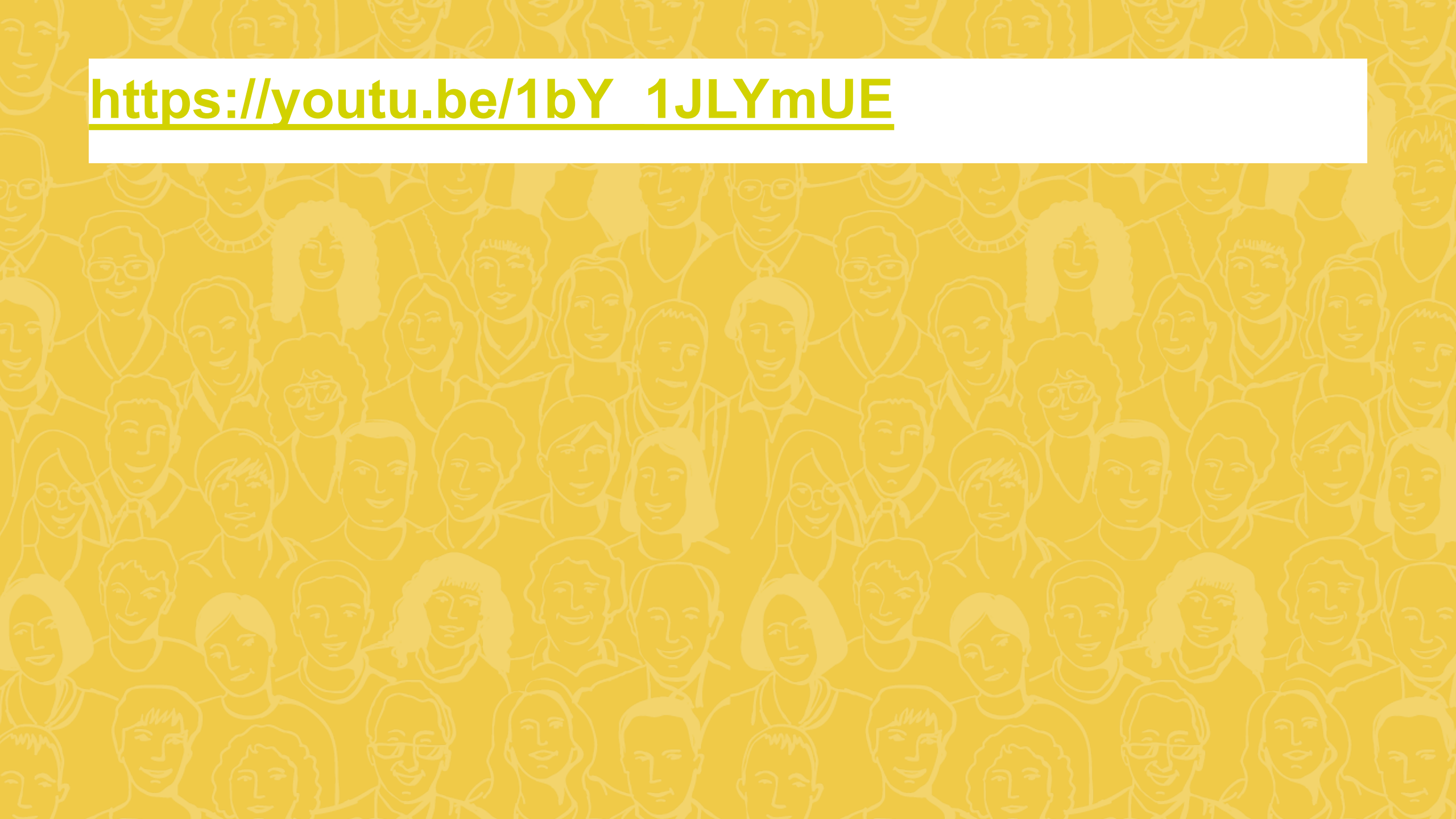
Genesis 11.1 - 8

Come, Let Us Build Ourselves A City

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly'. And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for water. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' The Lord came down to see the city and tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech'. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.



https://youtu.be/1bY_1JLYmUE



Questions

Come, Let Us Build Ourselves A City

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. Does any word or phrase strike you?
2. Are we ever guilty of putting time into things because of our own particular self-interest or reputation that might not be truly good?
3. How is God supporting you in your endeavours?
4. How do you consult God – as a group or community?
5. What practical steps can we take to ensure we're working for the Common Good



A Question to Take Away

Come, Let Us Build Ourselves A City

The idea of this is to offer you something to ponder as you are out and about in your local community so that the group discussions can be rooted in this reality. It can be something you keep in mind as you are ordinarily out and about, or something you may want to do with others as an intentional activity.

- Which local institutions are helping to build the Common Good, and are there any you think might be misguided, or seem more like vanity projects.



Closing Prayer

God of all,
Who looks down upon human
endeavours,
And frustrates wrong plans;
Reveal to us what is really good,
And plant within us worthwhile aims,
So we can build the Common Good.
Amen.



Welcome!



Session 3 Outline

Establish Justice In The Gate

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Reflections from previous session
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Question to take away
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



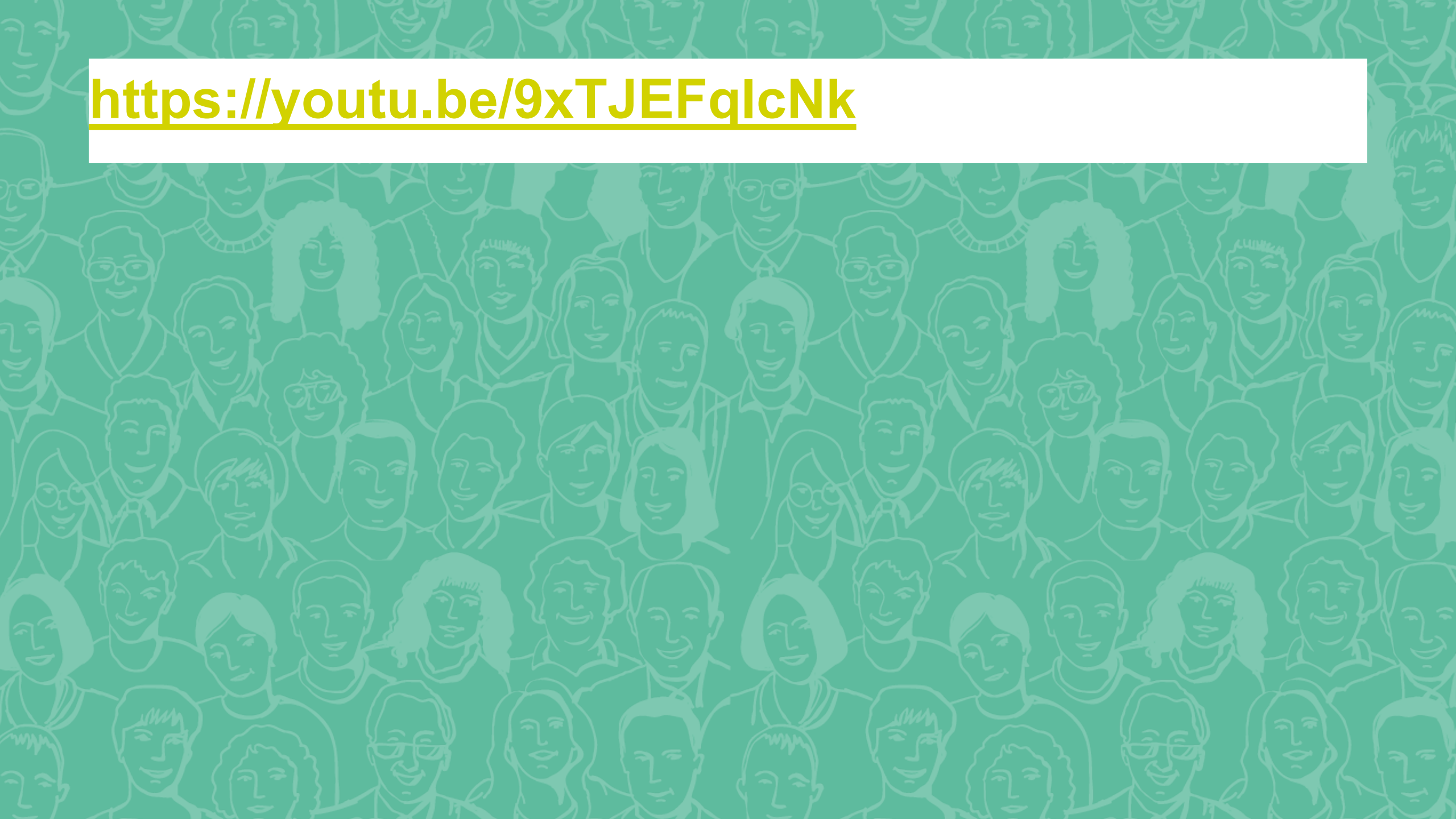
Amos 5.14 - 15a

Establish Justice In The Gate

‘Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so, the God of hosts will be with
you,
just as you have said
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate.’



<https://youtu.be/9xTJEFqIcNk>



Questions

Establish Justice In The Gate

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. Did something stand out to you in this short reading?
2. Amos presents a stark choice between good and evil. Is it always clear?
3. What are the challenges in working for the Common Good? How can we ensure all interests are served?
4. Building moral markets can entail doing business with integrity, participating as ethical savers and investors, helping those who have fallen victim to debt through dishonest dealing or making wrong choices, or campaigning for adequate conditions of employment. What practical things could you do in your context?



A Question to Take Away

Establish Justice In The Gate

The idea of this is to offer you something to ponder as you are out and about in your local community so that the group discussions can be rooted in this reality. It can be something you keep in mind as you are ordinarily out and about, or something you may want to do with others as an intentional activity.

- What examples are there of businesses or other organisations contributing to moral markets in your locality?



Closing Prayer

God of justice,
Who promises to have mercy;
Enable us to seek good not evil,
Establish justice where we are,
Sustain moral markets,
And help us always recognise your
presence among us.
Amen.



Welcome!



Session 4 Outline

That They May All Be One

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Reflections from previous session
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Question to take away
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



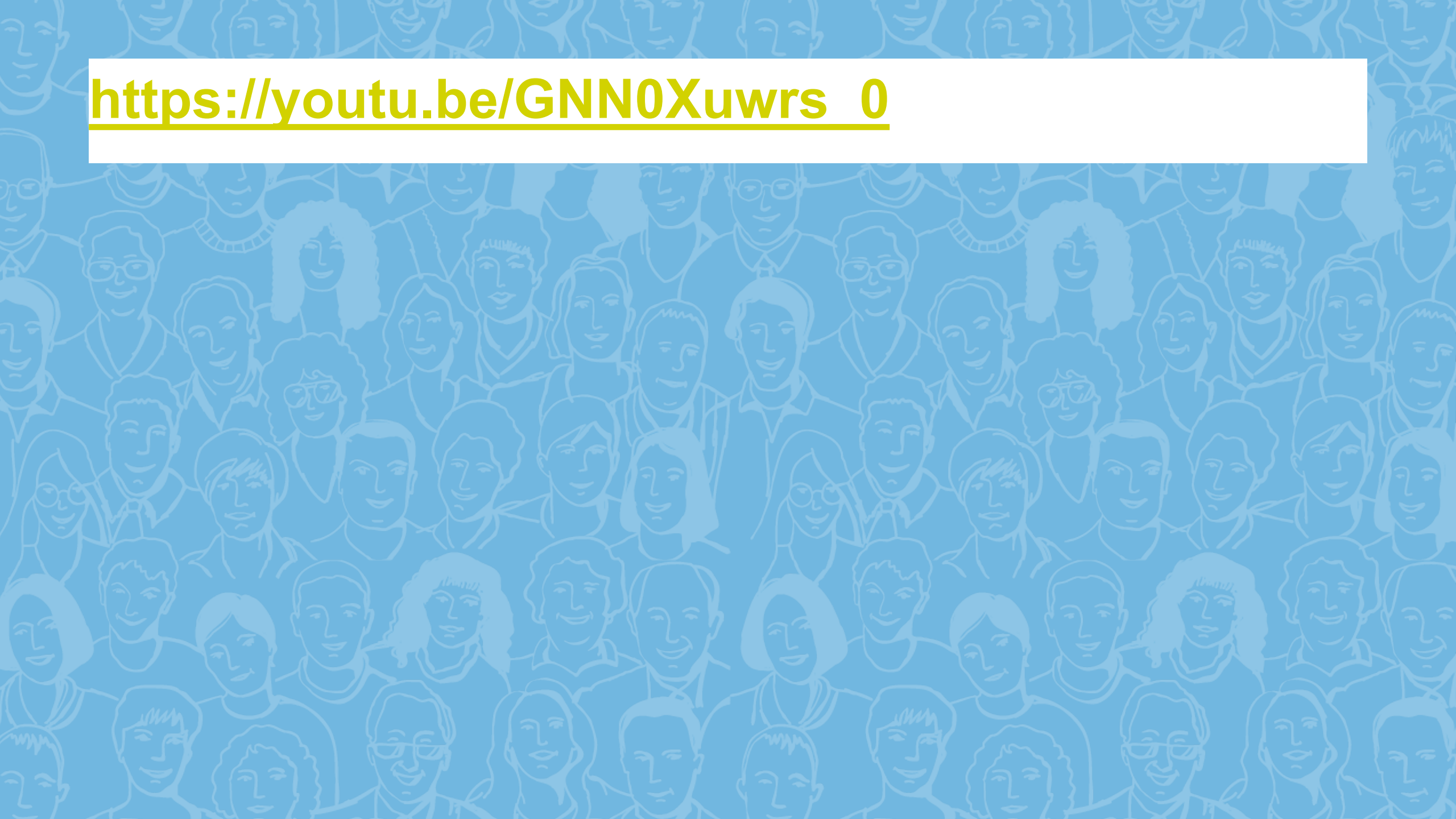
John 17.20 - 24

That They May All Be One

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.



https://youtu.be/GNN0Xuws_0



Questions

That They May All Be One

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. Does any word or phrase strike you from Jesus' prayer?
2. What does it mean for you that God is the eternal Common Good? How might this affect how you speak with people about faith?
3. What joys and challenges have you experienced when building bridges or being reconciled with others? Do you have any hints or tips for others in this important work?
4. Working with others for the Common Good is a response to Jesus' prayer. How can our common identity in Christ help in working with others?



A Question to Take Away

That They May All Be One

The idea of this is to offer you something to ponder as you are out and about in your local community so that the group discussions can be rooted in this reality. It can be something you keep in mind as you are ordinarily out and about, or something you may want to do with others as an intentional activity.

- How many other Christian communities are there in your neighbourhood? Are there any way that you know of where Christians have been able to 'be as one' across these communities?



Closing Prayer

God of glory,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
Give us faith;
To take risks for the Common Good,
And to be reconciled with each other,
So that we can be one with you.
Amen.



Welcome!



Session 4 Outline

You Are God's People

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Reflections from previous session
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Question to take away
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



1 Peter 2:9 - 12

You Are God's People

'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you, as aliens and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.'



<https://youtu.be/ZUHn6iA2SiY>



Questions

You Are God's People

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. In what ways does your Christian hope shape your life? Reflect for a moment on what it feels like to be God's people.
3. Do you have a sense of gratitude for what you have received? How might you 'give back'?
4. As part of its mission, is your church involved in nurturing new social enterprises or helping those who need support?



A Question to Take Away

You Are God's People

The idea of this is to offer you something to ponder as you are out and about in your local community so that the group discussions can be rooted in this reality. It can be something you keep in mind as you are ordinarily out and about, or something you may want to do with others as an intentional activity.

- Working for social justice is an important part of working for the Common Good. How have you seen this take shape in your town or locality?

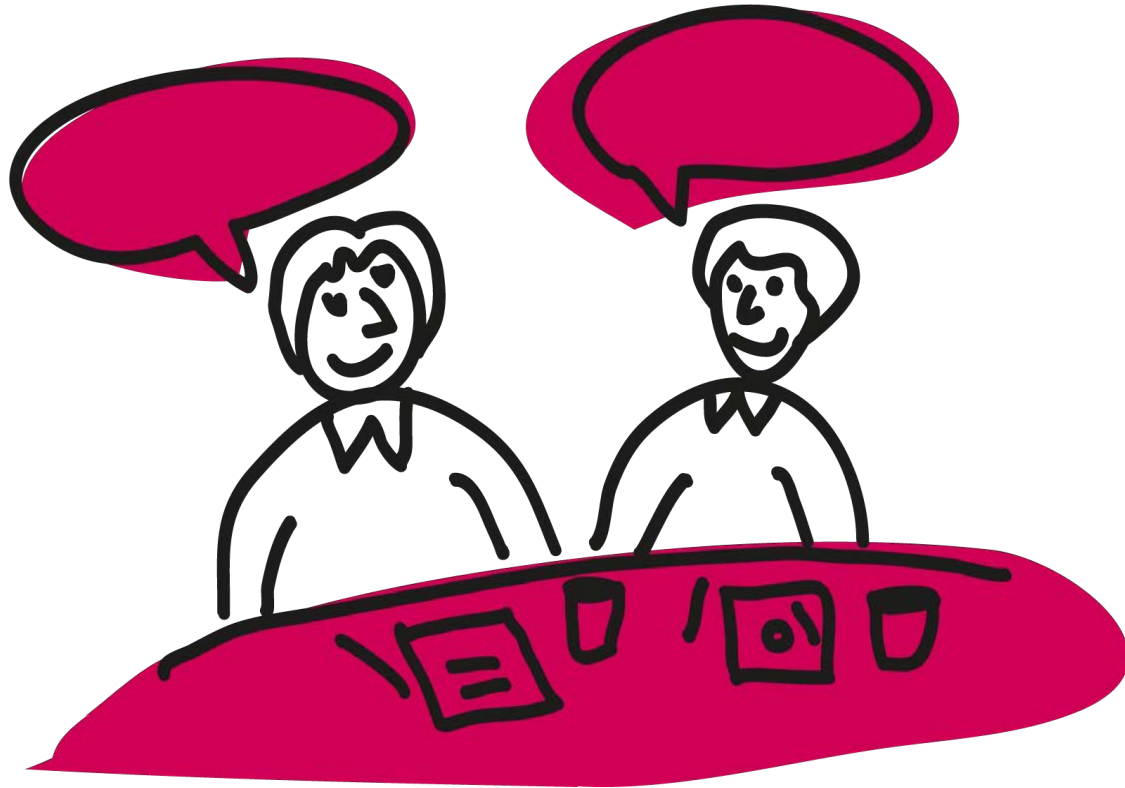


Closing Prayer

God of mission,
Help us to live well together:
Loving our neighbours,
And working for justice;
So that our common life witnesses to
your goodness,
And makes you known among
nations
Amen



Welcome!



Session 4 Outline

An Eternal Gospel

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Reflections from previous session
- Bible Reading
- Reflection
- Questions
- Discussion
- Prayer



T4CG Prayer

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, for ideas and for each other.

We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it.

Bind us together across our traditions and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



Revelation 14:6 - 7

An Eternal Gospel

Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.’



<https://youtu.be/589ddfi4G4c>



Questions

An Eternal Gospel

Don't feel you need to address every question, let them be a tool for discussion as is most useful

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. Are we prepared to work with others to build the Common Good? Do you think this is a good test of our commitment to working for God's justice?
3. Do we recognise the need to care for creation?
4. Caring for the environment and building sustainable communities is important for both ourselves and future generations. This may involve anything from driving less to making choices that support family life. What practical steps can you take in your context to care for the world around you?



Closing Prayer

Eternal God,
Who made all things,
And puts all things right;
Help us to put you first,
And work with everyone of goodwill,
As we respond to your call: to pursue
the Common Good.
Amen.

