



HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 1

19 October 2017

The church God needs

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left...?

Jonah 4:11(NIV)

Icebreaker

Share something about any culture on earth, other than your own, that you really like or admire.

Introduction

It was not long ago that we had to take a map with us when we travelled in areas we were unfamiliar with, whether in the form of a book or a large, clumsy folded sheet. Nowadays we simply type our destination on a phone and a kind and patient voice guides us to where we want to go. A church not speaking to the current questions and felt needs of a culture would be like a company still producing folded maps for navigating cities. A church that is serving what God has done in the past has actually become an irrelevant church. We have a very old message (the Gospel), but as a church we need to live and speak it in the present and, by doing that, prophetically shape the future. If the church is able to speak to the culture it exists in, it can play a role in shaping that culture.

Discussion

Read Acts 17:16-32.

- Name some of the elements of Paul's approach in communicating the Gospel to the tough audience in Athens?
- What, in the text, indicates that Paul had a good understanding of the culture in which he was ministering?
- Identify and discuss some of the general features of the culture in Pretoria.

- What kind of church would the Lord need to communicate effectively (that is, through words and deeds) the Gospel message to the culture we live and work in?

Prayer

- Read Jeremiah 29:7. Pray for our city.
- Pray for Hatfield Christian Church (and any other churches as the Holy Spirit leads) to become increasingly the kind of church that can live and speak the Gospel message with credibility and power to the city.
- Read Ephesians 4:11-12. Pray for each other, that each person will find their role in ministering God's truth, love, and grace to the people in this city.