



Small group discussion questions February 2015

Opening worship Craig Bowman (p25)

1. Craig begins the article by talking about the physical accessibility of churches. What are the kinds of difficulties churches face in trying to be accessible to all people? How accessible is your own church?
2. In paragraph two, Craig talks about being “a person of ideas and words who leads worship”. Thinking about worship in your own church, how much of it consists of words? What other means of communication (for example music, pictures) are part of the worship, and how much time is given to them?
3. In paragraph five, Craig refers to what we are told in Genesis 1:27: “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” What difference does this idea make to our understanding of ability and disability?
4. How would you sum up the difference between the teaching of John Swinton that Craig outlines in paragraph six, and the common view of our society?
5. In paragraph seven, Craig describes Christians as “people who require others in order to be truly ourselves”. How do you understand this statement? Can you give examples of what it might mean?
6. In paragraph eight, Craig suggests that changes are needed to our services in order to “allow those with impairments to take a full role in the offering of worship”. How true do you think this is of your church? What aspects of worship exclude people? What changes can be made to allow a wider range of people to participate? What might the benefits of such changes be?



7. In paragraph nine, Craig asks if the words and assumptions of our worship might make some people feel excluded or undervalued. Can think of any examples of this?

8. In the final paragraph, Craig says the Church needs to be a community where all kinds of people are essential participants. Why is this important? What practical steps could your church take to come closer to this goal?

For further reflection: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” Psalm 139:14

Prayer: God who sees immeasurable worth in each one of us your creatures, help us to see ourselves as you see us. Help us to open our eyes and our ears to the worth of those around us, and to make space for all. Amen.