



Small group discussion questions

March 2017

A good question: What does the Reformation mean today? (pages 20 to 23)

1. Can you describe in one sentence, what is meant by 'the Reformation'? If you have an answer to this, share it with the group and see how your answers compare.
2. In David Cornick's first paragraph, he outlines the positive achievements of the Reformation. How do think these things happened, and how important are these achievements? Are there others that you would add to David's list?
3. David goes on to outline the unintended consequences of the Reformation. How would you summarise these consequences? What can Christians today do to improve these things?
4. If you were on the 'jury' David talks of, how would you vote? Do the positive results of the Reformation outweigh the negative?
5. Savi Hensman talks of a renewal of spirituality and theology on both sides of the Reformation. How different do you think Christian life is now from what it was 500 years ago?
6. In her third paragraph, Savi says that overconfidence in interpreting Scripture remains a challenge today, as it was in the time of Martin Luther. Can you think of examples of this in your own experience? How might we meet this challenge?
7. What parallels does Savi find, in paragraph four, between the Reformation and questions of sex and sexuality in our own time? What can the Church today learn from the Reformation experience in this area?
8. Tina Beattie talks of having 'a Protestant head and a Catholic heart'. What are the key differences between these two traditions? How would you describe your own relationship to them?



9. In response to the story Tina tells in paragraphs one to three, how do you think your own upbringing in the faith has affected where you find yourself today?

10. In her fourth paragraph, Tina asks how Christians can become better at expressing unity. Any ideas?

11. Andrew Francis, in his first two paragraphs, describes a more radical strand of the Reformation. Do you think this got closer to what the Church should be than the mainstream Reformation?

12. How close is the Church of today to this radical ideal?

13. 'Radical reform means always reforming,' says Andrew in conclusion. How would you like to see the Church reformed today? What can we do to make that happen?

For further reflection: 'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.' Isaiah 43:19

Prayer: Father, we give thanks for those who have gone before us, who caught your vision, and worked hard, often paying a terrible cost, to transform the Church and the world that they were part of. Help us too, in our own days, to catch your vision. Help us to do what it takes to help make that vision come true. Amen