

OCBC 2022 Discussion Class Notes

Monday Discussion

What do we do well in our churches, and what do we not do well?

Things we do well

- Search in the scriptures
- Opening our bibles (reading God's word)
- Show examples that we love God
- Hospitality
- Casseroles (community food)
- Potlucks
- Out of town visitors
- Focus on newcomers/visitors
- Safe to be who we are in our ecclesia (high trust)
- Focusing on next generation
- Bible Schools
- Praying for others
- Interconnected community – worldwide
- Offering online services
- Talking about problems
- Caring for older members of ecclesia
- Staying true to our beliefs
- Closer connections because we expect to spend eternity together
- Music
- Sense of family
- Volunteers for community
- Mentoring
- We have the same goals

Things we do not do well

- Intrusive questioning of visitors
- Don't focus on next generation

- Attempt to control and exclusion of each other
- Superiority over non-Christadelphians
- Realize that we we may not be “right”
- Selective scriptural study
- Lack of generational respect
- Realizing the needs and perspectives of others
- Engagement with local community
- Inreach
- Flexibility & change
- Unite unammended/ammended communities
- Taking opportunities to discuss beliefs (tools)
- Meeting people where they are
- Remember to reach out to “lost sheep” – or people in isolation
- Realize that we may not be “normal” to some
- Too emotionally charged
- Know how to allow people to grow
- Being real and vulnerable
- Too much emphasis on academic

Tuesday Discussion

How do we ensure that our services each Sunday give Glory to God and Jesus; edify, encourage, Uplift, and really motivate all of us into action for the upcoming week.

Do we provide an environment of worship each Sunday?

Are we providing Music that really helps those that feel closest to God through musical praise and is our music giving praise to God?

Things we are doing well:

- WCF Directory
- Music Creation
- Bible-based hymns
- Uplifting music for elderly
- Group singing

- Using music to preach
- Connect Sunday morning hymns to exhortation

Things we are not doing well:

- Variety of instruments
- Fear of “other” church style music
- Include people musically who may not have an opportunity to serve in other roles
- Lower numbers means less musicality
- Control over music and emotions
- Somber tone for many hymns
- Music is personal – tradition is good for some
- Limiting ability to worship God
- Exposure to various Christian musicians – especially for children
- It is ok for traditions to change
- Appreciation of talent
- Test should be, “are we giving glory to God”
- Paying attention to the words/message
- Encouraging non-singers
- Grounded in a Thinking world not a Emotional world

Possible Solutions

- Group singing – preaching/singing
- Test should be, “are we giving glory to God”
- Encourage people to sing, no matter their ability
- Introducing hymns at correct time in service
- Repetition of specific hymns to learn as a group
- Multiple songs in a row (2 hymns to start – 2 hymns to close)
- Lead singer to help guide group
- Budget for musicians
- Food, fellowship & music – special weekend event with musical leader
- Trusting young people to pick music
- Traditional & Non-traditional Sunday

Christian Musicians

- Mercy Me
- Jeremey Camp
- Casting Crowns
- For King & Country
- Rich Mullins
- Sara Groves
- Lauren Daigle

Wednesday Discussion

Teen Responses

- Being able to break bread with everyone, regardless of fellowship status, hurts x 10
 - I can't break bread without repercussions
- Have a discussion with young people in the room
- Individual discussion
- Fighting about stupid issues, when bigger issues are more important
- Apologetics are ignorant or dishonest
- Stop teaching creation vs evolution as first principal
- Dysfunctional family dynamics, go to therapy
- Being afraid to talk about certain issues, or only talking about them when only one right answer
 - Open Minds x 4
- Lack of connection, not a large group of young people, out of place – mentorship program (FaithLaunch),
 - Establishing relationship with elders
 - Feel like I can't share because older people are judging "me"
- More inclusive and active within community
- Be more welcoming to non-Christadelphians, scared to bring a friend (judged when coming from "outside"), should be happy they are present x 4
- Sunday talks more uplifting (not just reading from scripture) x 2
- If we are "doing it right" why have so many teens walked away
- Preserving togetherness of the meeting

- Bring more uplifting/modern music to services (PTL > Green Book) x 2
- Should be more “on fire for Christ”
- More outside preaching efforts
- Kicking people out of ecclesias
- Have inspiring teachers
- Women should have more room to voice opinions within ecclesia
- Men help with cooking/cleaning (so not just women) x 2
- Very exclusive with facts
- Don’t pick and choose what sins we should shun people for
- Marrying outside can be a good thing
- Don’t be so judgmental
- Don’t be so focused on proving other religions wrong
- Focus on building faith instead of memorizing facts
 - Need to love Jesus & God and spread the light instead of just memorizing facts
- More classes about the importance of baptism

What can we do to support young people

- Find connections outside of spiritual-only
- Mixing generations is important
 - Ask questions, then listen
- Activities outside of Sunday morning
- Work on fellowship – Young people have to deal with devisions made by adults
- Share responsibilities (cooking/cleaning/teaching)
- Realities should be similar within and outside ecclesia
- Bread and wine is between us and God, not us and community
- Learn from each other, find ways to be more inclusive with people who believe in God
- Christadelphians span the globe – see the world instead of small bubbles
- Be the change you wish to see – allow young people to join committees
- Find what young people are good at, and encourage it
- Decisions in ecclesia should be scripture-based

What are we doing to support young people

- Helping young people find connections (connect teens to adults)
- Ecclesial care team that focuses on relationships within ecclesia
 - Gift basket to welcome to ecclesia
 - Tribes – division into mixed groups
- Whoever comes is welcomed
- Having a meal together – get to know fellow ecclesia members (young and old)
- Non-family Sunday school teachers have an amazing impact
 - Children notice when adults give them time
- Emphasize relationship with Jesus (not “Christadelphians”)