Real Change

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Goal

• to leave seeing more clearly how Real Change might fit your context

• to feel either ready to start or knowing what you still need to know
The story so far

- Three trees
The story so far

• The need for a shorter, small group resource

• The trial around churches in the UK

• The partnership with New Growth Press
The opportunities

- To grow appreciation of the gospel
- To help people understand how the gospel changes us
- To help people experience growth
- To help people understand biblical counselling from the inside
- To grow small group leaders as disciplers of others by starting with themselves
- As a fresh way to approach old truths
The opportunities

Helping the hurting in the congregation
- Individually
- In groups

Creating a culture of care
- In small groups
- In the wider congregation

Training up the leaders of the future
- Discipleship strategy
- Pastoral care strategy
Using the material with small groups

- Church of 30 – HPC – no opt in – “homework” variable

- Church of 500
  - Changing Hearts → summer camp with 18-19 yo

  - then Real Change – more man-friendly
    - Open invitation – great buy in, great participation, great discussion, visible change

- Keep it optional
- Make homework explicit
- Organise the discussion pairs – lightly or less lightly – and stress regularity
Using the material with small groups

The Leader

- Needs to “get” the three trees through personal experience
- Ie they need to know how God is changing them, and how the model captures that experience
- The centre: Change really happens in relationship with God through the gospel, repentance and faith. Need examples they can share in a few sentences.
- Planning helps brevity and blesses the group with more interaction time
- Finish on time
Using the material 1-to-1

- Within a biblical counselling / discipleship setting
- One person leads but both need to participate
- Wise approach to confidentiality
- Benefits:
  - intentional, intimate, tailored
- Challenges:
  - intense, dependency or isolation from wider community
Using the material to train leaders

• “Growth Groups” – ie not for Bible Study

• I wrote “personally” to all leaders to offer them training in their main task

• Those that came changed
  • Led more humbly
  • Examples to share
  • Understanding of how difficulties “work”
  • Understanding their role
Common pitfalls

• Never starting – perfectionism ?!

• Slavish sticking to the material

• Flexing too much, especially adding too much

• Over-running – timings in margins. Trim from the beginning

• Deep doctrinal questions – very important, very hard to handle well.
  • Deliberately defer or direct to others
Common fruit

• People buzz
• People get how the gospel and life connect
• People experience a different kind of conversation
• People change – marriages change, families change
  • Slowly, but significantly
Coming soon ...