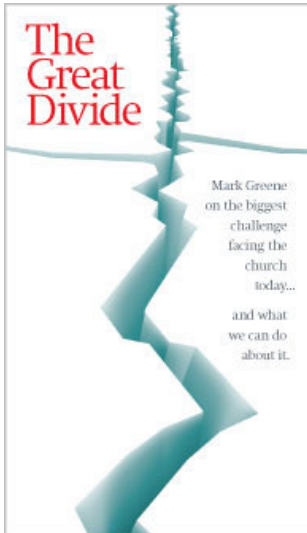


The Great Divide: Questions for Small Groups



A two part study to help a small group begin to engage with a number of the issues discussed in the Great Divide.

Session 1

In this session the group will reflect on the issues raised by the Great Divide and discuss ways of supporting one another in the resisting SSD

- 1) Read Colossians 1. Reflect together on how many areas of life and existence are encompassed in these verses. Why does it sometimes feel as if God is not interested in 'all things'? Why do we tend to limit what that includes?
- 2) Mark identifies lots of areas that have been affected by SSD, which ones do you think are particularly relevant to you as individuals?
- 3) 'SSD pervades the whole church. And pretty much everyone I know has had it and is a carrier. I've had it. And I struggle against it all the time'. Why do you think SSD is something we need to struggle against? In what ways could you help one another struggle against it?
- 4) On pages 10-11, Mark lists places where the Bible directly or indirectly deals with the subject of work. What other biblical passages, characters or instructions come to mind in this regard?
- 5) Mark comments that our worship songs are often victims of SSD, perpetuating an abstract spirituality. How might our worship songs and services be different if they were whole-life orientated?
- 6) 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in my office, my school, my football club, my local council, my home...' Share together where it is that you spend the majority of your time, and the challenges and opportunities that are there. Pray together that God's kingdom may come in those places, and that you each may join with him in his work there.

When you have prayed for each other, pray for Christians across the UK, that they may be released from SSD, into the 'epic purposes of God'.



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Session 2

This session focuses on the individual and how the Sacred-Secular Divide impacts them personally. Ask participants to spend time reflecting on the questions and then share their thoughts.

1. What do you tend to pray about for yourself?

Write down the topics.

What might this reveal about the scope of your concerns?

What might it reveal about the areas of life you think God is interested in?

What areas are missing?

2. What do you tend to pray about for other people? And who are they?

Write down the topics, and the people.

What might this reveal about what you think is important for them, and to God?

What might it reveal about who you think is important to God?

Naturally, we can't pray for everyone we meet, but are there people God's Spirit is prompting you to pray for that you wouldn't normally?

3. Where are the challenges in your life right now?

Write down your responses.

What might God be doing in and through them?

What do you think God might have been trying to teach you in recent days?

4. What do you love to do that you don't get to do right now?

Write down what those things are – it could be a hobby you don't get to practice, a friend you never see, a gift you never get to exercise...

Consider: what is the block? Is it time? Or money? Or opportunity? Or the sense that this isn't the kind of thing God would want you to be doing? Are you right? Or is that judgement affected by SSD?

