



Life Groups in Central Telford Parish
Summer 2016 "Live Like You Mean It"
Week beginning 11th September 2016
Start From Who You Are

Over the coming weeks, we are going to look at the life of King David but this week is all about You! We are start our journey looking at ourselves, the way god made us, celebrating who we are and realising we have amazing potential

- **Welcome**

What 3 words best describe you?

- **Worship**

Read Genesis 1:1-10, 31. The leader may wish to use photos of the world or encourage people to call to mind something they have seen which makes them wonder at creation (eg the night sky, a view, animals etc). Spend some moments praising God for Creation.

Read Genesis 1:27-30 and Psalm 139:13-16. Call to mind some of the amazing ways our bodies work. Spend some moments praising God for his Creation of us as people.

- **Word**

Go round the group and enjoy hearing some of the stories ...

- ❖ Have you any well-known or famous/infamous ancestors?
- ❖ If you were on "Who do you think you are?", who would be the significant people in your family?
- ❖ What were the key events of your childhood which shaped you as a person?
- ❖ What is your best achievement so far in life?
- ❖ What would you like to be the words on your tomb?
- ❖ Looking back (so far) what is the most important thing in your life?

Genesis 1:27 says "*So God created human beings in his own image.*"

- What does this say about what God wanted people to be like?
- Does this just mean that we look like God? If not, how else are we like God?
- In the story of Creation, what hasn't happened yet that changes things?
- What difference does this make in terms of our relationship with God?

In a world of science and technology there is a real temptation to try and reduce each and every person to a formula where we add up genetics and nurture, temptation and sin in order to predict what life holds in store for us. And, even worse than this, there is a temptation to blame all the ills of the world on things we have no control over so we can declare to the world "It's Not My Fault!"

- ❖ How does the world look if we place ourselves at the centre of everything?
- ❖ What is the difference if we place God at the centre of everything?

If we build God into the picture we move to a universe where the focus is on the big picture of Creation and you and I are not an accidental collision of a sperm and an egg which leads on to the pre-determined events generated by DNA and so on - we become a specially created, and deeply loved, child of God.

Many, if not most, Christians are able to accept the basic beliefs of the faith: that Jesus is the Son of God who was born of a Virgin, lived a blameless life and died on the Cross for the sin of the world, and then was then raised to life by his Father. But – and it is a big BUT, the same people can struggle with the idea that God knows them as an individual person. With 7 billion other people on planet earth, surely God can't know me as distinct from everyone else? It stretches our faith – quite understandably! But ... for a moment ... consider the possibility that an infinite God who created an infinite universe could actually know you ...

Read again Psalm 139:13-16

- What does this say about the human body?
- What does this say about the thought that all we know is the product of random coincidences?
- What does this say about the way we grow and develop?
- What does this say about the purpose of life?
- What does this say about the idea that there is a plan for our life?

- **Walk**

Read Psalm 139:1-12 and the way God watches and guides us through our life.

- ❖ What are you going to be doing in the days before you next meet as a group?
- ❖ Are there any special events, challenges, issues or matters you will have to experience or deal with?
- ❖ How might knowing that God knows about them, is aware of them and may even have planned them for you going to affect the way you face them?

Spend some time listening to God and sharing any words, pictures, verses you think he might be saying to you as an individual or as a group. Be bold and brace – share with one another and discuss what you sense God is saying. Pray for any other specific issues people are facing in the Life Group.

- **Next Time ...**

Week beginning 18th September:

1 Sam 16:1-13: Be a Human Amongst Humans

As we continue to look at what it means to live "Being Yourself" we begin to look at the life of David and how he lived ...

