

## Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

### Summer Term 2015 "Words of Life – The Letters of John"

Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## 1 John 1:5-10 "Totally Forgiven"

### • The Aim of this Session

John's letters stem from a passionate desire that people should meet with the person of Jesus and know the life he brings. But before truly fruitful life can truly take root and grow in our lives, the clearing and digging out of the weeds of sin in our lives needs to happen.

### • Welcome

What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done which you are willing to admit to!?

### • Worship

Jesus presence on earth was as a real and totally human being. John walked, talked, argued, listened, wondered, touched, hugged and had a deep relationship with Jesus so that he could call himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (not that he was loved more than anyone else, but that he knew that he was loved). Try to imagine what that must have been like. Read again 1 John 1:1-4. Worship God for who Jesus is and that we can know the same relationship – and pray that in your time together you will know this, know how to testify to it and know the joy that John speaks of.

### • Word

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

- What does the initial vision that Isaiah sees say about God (vv1-4)?
- Why should the creatures cover their faces (v2)?
- If the "whole earth is full of his glory", why can't people see it?
- Why should Isaiah, a man of God and a Prophet react the way he did (v5)?
- Why should the fact that he lives among a sinful people be important (v5)?
- What is the problem with him seeing God (v5)?
- What is the significance of what the seraph does and where he takes the coal from (vv6-7)?
- What is the immediate result of this (v8)?

Read 1 John 1:5-10

- If God is light and sin equates to darkness then any sin whatsoever is offensive to God (v5).
- "If we claim to have fellowship ..." – means "If we claim to be able to be in his presence" (v6)
- If we do not recognise the seriousness of our sin, then we are making such a claim (see verse 10)
  
- ❖ Then what does "Walking in the light" mean? Does it mean we will never sin (v7)?
- ❖ What does the light do in our lives? What does it show us?
- ❖ What should we do about what the light shows us?
- ❖ And what does God do in return (v7b)
- ❖ Read vv8/9 and say what the opposite of each is (ie "If we recognise that we have sin, then ...")
- ❖ Is there any possible way of watering down verse 10?

## **The Stench of Sin**

- ❖ What are the different ways we try to excuse or “laugh off” our sin?
- ❖ How does God see it (Romans 3:23)?
- ❖ How does Isaiah see it (Isaiah 6:5)?
- ❖ How does John understand it (1 John 5:8,10)?
- ❖ Why, then, do we make light of it?

It is only when we take our sin seriously, that we can experience the full depth of God’s Forgiveness.

## **The Fact of Forgiveness**

- ❖ God’s Forgiveness is a Fact (“He will ...” 1 John 5:9).
- ❖ Isaiah accepted God’s forgiveness and the result was dramatic (Isaiah 6:7-8).
- ❖ Why do we sometimes find it hard to accept God’s forgiveness?
- ❖ Why do we find it hard to forgive ourselves?
- ❖ What happens when we fail to do one of these?

## **Purified for a Purpose**

- ❖ God does not forgive us “just for fun” so that we can go and do it again.
- ❖ So why does he forgive us?
- ❖ What does he want to happen next (see Isaiah 6:8)?

### **• Walk**

The reason we have times of Confession in our Worship is because it is vital, it is absolutely vital and necessary that we recognise the seriousness of our sin, so that we can be effective in our Christian life and in our work to build the Kingdom. Our Mission Statement focuses on relationships – relationships are stifled by unresolved divisions and sin is precisely that in our relationship with God. So we need to take on board the serious nature of our sin, so that we can experience his Forgiveness and get on with doing what he wants us to be doing.

You may want to have a time of silence to contemplate these things.

- ❖ Are there times when you have not acknowledged the seriousness of your sin?
- ❖ Are there sins which need to be brought before God (note “God”, not necessarily “Other people”)?
- ❖ Do you need help in resisting these sins in the future?

It may be hard to talk about these things openly and honestly in the group, but it may help to pray in couples about whatever issues you feel you are able to talk about.

### **• Next Time ...**

#### **1 John 2:1-14 – Walking In The Light**

Why do we sometimes prefer the shadows?

What happens if we truly walk in the light?

