

Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

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

Week beginning 3rd May 2015

1 John 2:1-14 "Walking In The Light"

- **The Aim of this Session**

"We are Living in the Light of God" is a song which speaks of a choice – the choice to bathe in the warmth, the power and the beauty of God's love for us. It all sounds so straightforward and asks "why would anyone do anything different?". And yet people do. And we have to make a choice ...

- **Welcome**

Where is the darkest place you have ever been to ... a place with no street lights ... a forest ... a cave?

- **Worship**

Jesus' presence on earth brought light into the world. Read (again) the Christmas gospel of John 1:1-14 slowly. It may help to have a candle and light it as you come to verse 9. Thank God for the light of the world and pray that his light will shine into your time together.

- **Word**

Last week we introduced the idea of walking in the light and the issue of sin. In some ways, it was more about "how not to walk in the light". So this week asks about what life is like walking in the light.

- ❖ Why is sunshine so important to life on earth?
- ❖ Why do we feel so much better in sunshine rather than cloud?
- ❖ Is it just about the "feeling" of walking in sunshine?
- ❖ What does that say about spiritually walking in the Light of God?
- ❖ Is it just that we feel better for doing so?
- ❖ What is the Light of God – what does it mean in practice?
- ❖ And how does the light "shine" in practical terms?
- ❖ And what does "walking in God's light" mean to you personally? Spend some time discussing this!

Read 1 John 2:9-14

- What affect does living in the light have upon relationships?
- What does this mean in practice, in our day to day relationships ...
- ... with those in our Church life?
- ... with those who do not "live in the light"?
- Is there a difference?
- Should there be a difference?
- What difference does v12 make in our lives?
- What difference does vv13/14 make to Fathers, and what practical effects in life should knowing this have?
- ... and what about Young Men?
- ... and Children?

Read Ephesians 5:1-10

- ❖ How does v1 relate to Matthew 5:14?
- ❖ What does the relationship between us and God look like (vv1/2) and how is expressed?

- ❖ What happens when the actions of vv3-5 get exposed to the Light?
- ❖ Why can't we do such things if we are walking in God's light? See v8.
- ❖ Who in the world today will try and fool us (vv6/7)?
- ❖ What do you think pleases God (v9b/10)?

Thinking about the various aspects of this study...

- ❖ What did walking in the Light of God's love mean in practice to Jesus?
- ❖ How did he experience the light – can you think of any examples?
- ❖ How did it resource his ministry?
- ❖ What effect did it have ...
- ❖ ... in his teaching?
- ❖ ... in his miracles?
- ❖ ... in the wilderness?
- ❖ ... in Gethsemane?

• **Walk**

Walking in the Light of God speaks of a life that is lived, in every possible way, in the fullness of God's love ... it is not that we spend our lives with our heads in the clouds, but that we live with the Holy Spirit shining God's love, resources, influences, decisions into our lives. It means we seek to spend time with God and we listen as well as speak, we seek to be obedient and we know that if we fall, we can immediately seek forgiveness – living in the Light of God is a whole life experience.

Are there things in our lives which are holding us back from living this way?

- Are we holding back because we are afraid of commitment?
- Are we wanting to live in the Light but can't seem to find it?
- What might these things be and how can we address them?

Share your thoughts on these things and read Ephesians 3:14-21, which is Paul's prayer of Blessing for the Ephesians which effectively prays that they will live in the Light of God and know every possible blessing from doing so. Pray for one another using these verses.

• **Next Time ...**

1 John 2:1-14 – Living In The World

How easy do we find life in reality?

How easy is it to live out our faith?

