

Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

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

Week beginning 10th May 2015

1 John 2:15-17 "Living In The World"

• The Aim of this Session

The reality of the Christian life is that for us to be truly effective, we have to be in the real world. Jesus didn't try and save the world from a desk in heaven – he came to be with us, to live with us, and engage with the world he helped Create in order to save it. So how can we live and shine as light in the world?

• Welcome

Where is the most remote or loneliest place you have ever been to ... ?

• Worship

Read Romans 5:6-8 and Matthew 28:18-20. Remember that Jesus came into the world to deal with sin once and for all and has promised his continuing presence always. Be honest about the times when you feel lonely or remote and perhaps separated from Christian fellowship – be honest with God about what this means in practice and the effects it has on you. Give thanks for the promise of Jesus – and ask God that you might "live" in that promise day by day.

• Word

Going round the group, talk about what you do each day ... where you work, where you socialise, where you go, where you relax ... who are the people you meet? Where are the pressures and stresses? Where are the temptations? Where are the rewards? Take some time over this – maybe 30-45 minutes - so that you can get to know each other and understand each other more.

Read Luke 5:30-32

- ❖ What sorts of people did Jesus socialise with – who would they be in today's world?
- ❖ What sorts of issues would he have discussed with them – just "spiritual" ones?
- ❖ In what ways were the people "sick" (v31)? Did they know it?
- ❖ What does this say about the needs of the people we need to meet? Do we meet them? When?

Read John 8:32 and John 18:36

- ❖ If Jesus is not of/from this world, how does that effect how we reach out?
- ❖ Are we taking ourselves, or Jesus – if so, how? (Think back to last week)

Read 1 John 2:15-17

- ❖ What in today's world would be the things John would be describing in verse 16?
- ❖ How would "loving the world" be seen in our lives in practice (v15)?
- ❖ And what is the long term effect on our lives ... ?
- ❖ ... and the Light shining in us ...?
- ❖ ... and the people around us ...?
- ❖ ... and the Kingdom of God?
- ❖ What are the things which will never pass away (v17)?

Read Romans 12:2. If we let the light shine in our lives, then it will show up things for us to deal with – the sins and habits that need dealing with, as well as guiding us to do the things God wants us to do. We will be gradually transformed to be the people who God can use ... Read Matthew 5:13-16

- ❖ In the light of what we are discussing, what does being Salt and Light mean in our lives?

- **Walk**

Take a few minutes to think about these questions ...

- Where in particular do you feel that God is calling you to be Salt and Light?
- Are you tempted to hold back from doing being these things out of fear or another reason?
- Are you aware of particular things that you know God wants to do through you?
- What do you need to pray for in this?

Share your thoughts on these things and pray for one another.

- **Next Time ...**

1 John 2:18-27 – Warnings Against the Enemy

Oscar Wilde wrote "I can resist everything except temptation".
How true is that for you and I?

