

Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

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

Week beginning 31st May 2015

1 John 3:1-10 – "Children of God"

• The Aim of this Session

Over the past few weeks, our studies in John's first letter have highlighted John's deep-rooted desire that we should live in the light, with our sin forgiven and minds focussed on following Jesus. That sounds ok – but a bit like hard work. So now John reminds us that we do all this not as slaves or workers, but as the adopted children of God himself.

• Welcome

What is your best memory of childhood?

• Worship

Read John 1:9-13 and John 13:31-35. Living in the Light is something which we do by living in the Love of God. Share some examples of the love of God which you have experienced and praise him together for them. It may be good to share the Peace as you recognise that what you share is far greater than any issues which divide.

• Word

- ❖ What does a perfect child look like ... at 5 years old? 10 years old? 15? 20?
- ❖ Does childhood change with age?
- ❖ What does a perfect parent look like?
- ❖ Does this change with age?
- ❖ What stops us being perfect parents or children?
- ❖ What difference does "love" make in the family environment?
- ❖ How is it seen in practical reality?
- ❖ What does it bring to the confidence of the family?

Read John 13:31-35

- Why will Jesus be glorified (v31)?
- What do verses 31 & 32 say about the glory of God?
- How do these verse connect with Matthew 5:14?
- How are light and God's glory connected?
- And how does this relate to John 1:14?

It is sometimes the worst nightmare for a child to be told that they are "sooo like their Mum or Dad" and yet that is what we should be desiring to be as children of God – so that the light/glory of God is seen in our lives. The word "sanctification" describes the way that the Holy Spirit works in our lives over time to make this transformation happen ...

Read 1 John 3:1-10

- How do we become "children of God" (v1)?
- How is love involved in the process?
- Do we have a choice in the matter?
- If the world does not recognise Jesus, and therefore us (because his light is in us), what does this say that we need to be doing? What is going wrong?

- What is the promise for the future (v2)?
- And what should that mean in our lives now?
- How does this happen ... and how long does it take (v3)?
- And what holds the process back (v4)?
- How do you hold verses 4 to 6 in tension with chapter 2 verse 1?
- And what do we need to know in order to not be led astray (vv7-9) - see Chapter 2 verses 21/22?
- How are we "born of God" (v9)?
- And why is this significant (see John 3:3-7).
- How can we be confident that we are children of God (v10)?

• Walk

Many people in the life of the Church have a problem with the words "*born again*", being called a "*child of God*" and even that they are "*loved by God*". This is something which can stem from bad relationships in childhood, or a misperception of what these things mean, or because of the way the Church has misused these words in the past (eg "*born again*"). The reality is that these are all words directly associated with Jesus himself and if we challenge their significance or deny them and their application to our lives, then we are doubting Jesus himself.

- ❖ Do any of these phrases cause you a problem? Why?
- ❖ What has been the cause?
- ❖ How might you be able to resolve the problem?
- ❖ How can you help each other in this?

It may help to spend the last part of your time together in quiet, with the leader saying these phrases and encouraging the members to ponder on them and ask God not just to help you not to understand their meaning, but to own the truth of them:

- ❖ *"I am loved by God"*
- ❖ *"God loved me so much that he sent Jesus"*
- ❖ *"Jesus loved me so much that he was willing to die in my place on the Cross"*
- ❖ *"Because of this, I am a Child of God"*
- ❖ *"Jesus' light shines in my life"*
- ❖ *"God is working on me through the power of the Holy Spirit to make that light shine brighter"*
- ❖ *"I have the promise of eternal life"*
- ❖ *"I believe and trust God for these things"*

• And Finally ...

It might help you to print these statements out and put them somewhere you can read them every day ... asking God to let them take root in your lives.

• Next Time ...

Back to John: 1 John 3:11-24 – "Love One Another"

We have to love but do we need to like others!?

