

Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

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

Week beginning 12th July 2015

1 John 5:13-21 – "That You May Believe"

• The Aim of this Session

Over the past couple of months, we have looked at John's first letter and discovered the key things which John believed about the way a faith in Jesus affects the way we live ... this session aims to bring together some of the thinking and challenges we have encountered ...

• Welcome

What is the biggest act of faith you have taken (apart from Jesus!)? eg Walk across a rope bridge..?

• Worship

Light a candle in the middle of your group and be quiet for a while. Read John 1:1-14, slowly and deliberately. After a moment of quiet, the leader might like to say these simple sentences:

- ❖ Jesus was there and a part of the Creation of the Universe and the World in which we live.
- ❖ Jesus came to bring light in to a dark world.
- ❖ Jesus offered life but many did not want it.
- ❖ Jesus offered the opportunity for us to know God in the intimacy of a parent/child relationship.
- ❖ In and through Jesus, we can know God as Creator, Redeemer, Light and Friend.
- ❖ Jesus calls us to live our lives in the *agape* love of God.
- ❖ Jesus calls us to show our faith by sharing our lives and this love with those around us.

Speak out prayers and worship in response and ask Jesus to stand among you in your time together.

• Word

In Session 1, "**The Word of Life**", we saw that ...

- Jesus was the visible representation of God (see Hebrews 1:3) and he revealed God to us (John 14:9).
- If people believe what John says, then they can "have fellowship" (ie be one in spirit) with John.
- Because John knows God, people who have fellowship with John can have fellowship with God.

In Session 2, "**Totally Forgiven**", we saw that ...

- ❖ God is Holy and we are sinners.
- ❖ Because of the Cross, God's Forgiveness is a Fact ("He will forgive ..." 1 John 5:9).
- ❖ He forgives us so that we can go and serve him.

In Session 3, "**Walking In The Light**", we saw that ...

- We need to choose to walk in the Light of God.
- Walking in the Light of his Father's love resourced Jesus' ministry.
- We hold back because we are afraid of making a committed choice in life.

In Session 4, "**Living In The World**", we saw that ...

- ❖ We all live with different challenges and issues – but God is the same and so is his light.
- ❖ Letting the Light shine means being "Salt" and "Light" (Matthew 5:13-16)
- ❖ There are places where God calls us to be Salt and Light?

In Session 5, "**Warnings Against The Enemy**", we saw that ...

- There is a real issue of evil in the world – and in our own part of it.
- God calls us to stand firm and where the armour of Ephesians 6:10-18.
- We need to trust in Jesus and "know that he is righteous" (1 John 2:29)

In Session 7, "**Children of God**", we saw that ...

- ❖ We are loved by God with a passion that knows no bounds.
- ❖ We are called to be like children in our relationship with God.
- ❖ It is not always easy for us to accept these things..

In Session 8, "**Love One Another**", we saw that ...

- The Bible has different words for love: "*Eros*", "*Philia*" and "*Agape*"
- *Agape* love is the love God has for us and wants us to have for each other.
- We may not always like people but we are always called to love them

In Session 9, "**Knowing The Truth**", we saw that ...

- ❖ Jesus is truth personified.
- ❖ We can know what is true by looking at whether it is consistent with Jesus' teaching.
- ❖ This is often going to go against the thinking of the world in which we live.

In Session 10, "**God's Love and Ours**", we saw that ...

- We have done –nothing to deserve God's never ending, perfect and all-consuming love for us.
- Love demands a response even if it is to deny it or decline it
- We do so by obeying Jesus' command to love one another (John 13:34-35)

In Session 11, "**Faith In Jesus**", we saw that ...

- ❖ There is a difference between "belief" and "faith."
- ❖ If we believe in something significant, it may have serious implications.
- ❖ "*God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son*" and "*He who has the Son has life.*" (1 John 5:11-12)

Read 1 John 5:13-21. John states "*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal*" (v13) which sums up the contents of the letter, along with some specific final words ...

- ❖ We can approach God in prayer with confidence (v14) and he will hear us (v15).
- ❖ Sin is important and we should humbly help each other (vv 16-18)
- ❖ As children of God we need to maintain a good relationship with our heavenly Father by avoiding sin (v18-19)
- ❖ We do this by continuing to live in Jesus and him alone (vv20-21)

• **Walk**

It may be helpful to write down your answers to these questions and share them with the group:

- ❖ One thing I have learned from this series of studies is ...
- ❖ One thing which I have struggled to understand is ...
- ❖ One thing I have struggled to agree with is ...
- ❖ One thing which has challenged me is ...
- ❖ One thing which has encouraged me is ...
- ❖ One thing which I will take away with is ...

Finally, pray for each other ... how is your prayer diary going?

• **Next Time ...**

Summer!

Have a great summer – why not meet up as a group for a walk, picnic or BBQ ...?

