

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 11th June 2017

TRINITY SUNDAY

As we Gather

Throughout the disciples' time with Jesus He had revealed the character and nature of God in His teaching and by His works. During their last trip to Jerusalem together He spoke frequently of His relationship with the Father. As he prepared the disciples for what lay ahead of Him in Jerusalem, Jesus promised that when he left them the Father would send the Holy Spirit (Spirit of Truth) to be with them.

Reading Scripture **Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a** **Psalms 8** **2 Corinthians 13:11-14** **Matthew 28:16-20**

Thinking Together

When the disciples met Jesus for the last time after His resurrection and subsequent meetings with them, those who were closest to Him could have had no doubt about Who He is, or about His authority and power.

At this last meeting Jesus did three things –

- He assured them of His authority (Matthew 28:18) [authority – the right to exercise power] = therefore all disciples are followers of / subject to a Master whose authority upon earth and in heaven is beyond question, and can obey Him without fear. He is in control and Christians operate on the authority given to Him by God the Father, ministering in His name and depending upon His Spirit (Holy Spirit) for power and guidance

How does this knowledge make you feel about your work in the church? Discuss

- He gave them a commission (Matthew 28:19) As disciples we are commanded to make new disciples by the telling of the Good News and by the witness of our lifestyle, using the gifts given us
= therefore wherever we are and whatever our situation, we are to carry on the work of Jesus and draw people to Him

Why must we win people for God? Discuss (2 Peter 3:9)

A disciple attaches himself /herself to a teacher, identifies with the teacher, learns from the teacher, and lives with the teacher.

A disciple of Christ believes in Christ, expresses this belief by being baptised and remaining in fellowship with Him and with other believers

How do Christians remain in fellowship with Christ? Discuss

Jesus specifically commanded His disciples to baptise new disciples in the name of the Father (love), and of the Son (grace) and of the Holy Spirit (fellowship), and to teach them to obey Him (Matthew 28:20a 2 Corinthians 13:11-14)

What is the symbolism of baptism? Discuss

**Is your local church spiritually fruitful through a systematic discipleship programme?
Discuss (2 Timothy 2:1-2)**

- He promised , unconditionally, that His presence would be with them always (Matthew 28:20b Acts 18:1-11)

How does this knowledge make you feel? Discuss

Jesus was / is the only person who perfectly reflects God's image (Colossians 1:15 + 19)

Does your conduct always reflect God's glory / image? Discuss
(Genesis 1:26-27 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11)

What barriers in your life prevent you from having a childlike faith in God? Discuss

How does your local church reflect love, grace and fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:12 + 14)
= among members? Discuss
= in the surrounding community? Discuss

In Closing

If anything proves the Kingship of Jesus it is His resurrection from the dead – His victory over spiritual death / evil.

Because Jesus is with His people in and through the Holy Spirit, it does not matter where He leads us or what circumstances we face, we can trust Him because He is in control and in and through Him we are children of God.

PRAYER

God of unchangeable power,
you have revealed yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Keep us firm in this faith, that we may praise and bless your holy name,
for you are one God living and reigning in glory now and forever. Amen