

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 1st February 2015

COVENANT SUNDAY

As we Gather

We all learn and remember more easily when seeing is linked to hearing. Jesus wanted His disciples to remember all He had taught them and what they had seen in their time with Him: Hence His dramatic action of using the traditional Passover meal to explain the significance of His final message to them.

Reading Scripture **MARK 14 : 22 – 25**

Thinking Together

God has always initiates any relationship between Himself and humans. In the Old Testament we can trace the course of this relationship / covenant, its conditions, and purpose. The New Testament records how Jesus ratified this covenant.

How does the new covenant differ from the old covenant? Discuss

(see Exodus 19:5-8 and Deuteronomy 5:1-22, then compare Exodus 24:3-8 and Mark 14:22-25. Also see 2 Samuel 7:10b-14a, then compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Romans 12:1-2)

What we believe helps determine how we behave. If the world controls your thinking, you are a conformer

How would you recognise a conformer? Discuss

If God controls your thoughts, you are a transformer. A right relationship with God results in right relationships with people who are part of our lives [1 John 4:20]

Have you made a personal covenant with God? Discuss

(see Romans 8:9 Ephesians 4:17-24 Romans 7:4-13(22) 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

Jesus used bread and wine to explain what He was going to do on the cross, and His death on the cross seals the new covenant (relationship) between God and people. We come to God through Jesus in full confidence of salvation [Hebrews 9:1 + 7 + 11-12 10:1-7 + 19-24]

As Christians our desire is to be spiritually one with our Saviour, because when we yield to God's will / control we transform from within as His power enables us to live victorious, joyous, and productive lives

What does yielding your will to God entail for you? Discuss

Meeting together at the table of the Lord is an act of thanks-giving in remembrance of what Jesus has done for us. We are alive in and through Him, because love has conquered sin.

How often do you surrender your will to God? Discuss

In Closing

The new covenant can do what the old could not – take away sin and cleanse the heart and conscience of the believer.

The Communion Service / Eucharist serves as a memorial of God's love for all people.

PRAYER

Almighty and ever living God, may we be brought to you by Jesus Christ our Lord,
with pure and clean hearts. Amen