

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 19 July 2015

USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO GOD'S GLORY

As We Gather

All that God promises He fulfils, and His promises to David are fulfilled for us in Christ. Everything belongs to God, and in God's presence is our joy and salvation.

Reading Scripture **2 SAMUEL 7 : 1 – 14a** **PSALM 89 : 20 – 37** **MARK 6 : 30 – 34 & 53 - 56**

Thinking together

In the Old Testament reading we see God reminding David that he was anointed to be a shepherd (unify the tribes) to the people. Sometimes God say 'no' to our plans because His way leads to greater purpose in our lives (2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37).

How do you think David felt when Nathan told him what God had said? Discuss

Have you ever had your plans vetoed / changed by God? Discuss

Note that it was only after he was rested and relaxed that David thought out his plan (2 Sam 7:1).

In the New Testament reading our need for withdrawing into the presence of God, from the pressures and demands of life / people, becomes clear (Mark 6:30-32).

Just as there is a physical balance in life of sleep / work, night / day, breathing in / breathing out, so we need a spiritual balance between God-rest and prayer, and activity / service.

Are you able to achieve this balance? Discuss

Just as Jesus and the disciples were not able to escape the crowds who followed them, so too, we often find it difficult to withdraw into solitude and contemplation

How does this make you feel? Discuss

How did Jesus feel? (Mark 6:34) Discuss

Why did Jesus think of the people as lost sheep? Discuss

There is a real danger to our health of too much activity and not enough rest.

What physical and spiritual dangers are there? Discuss

There is also danger in too much withdrawal which does not result in work / service. We may become takers instead of givers (Mark 6:53-56)

What do you understand this last sentence to mean? Discuss

We have all at one time made use of our family / friends, and been very grateful for their response(s).

Under what circumstances have you leant on family / friends? Discuss

Discuss the ways in which takers can misuse

- **Their family / friends**
- **The church**
- **God**

Discuss the ways in which givers can bring glory to God and enrich the

- **Lives of their family / friends**
- **Life of the church**

In Closing

God provides and God protects. Through Jesus, all God's love, promises and kindness to David become ours.

It is important that we do not count on our own resources, but that we find out God's will and trust Him to meet our needs

Do you approach God in love, service and commitment?

