

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 23rd March 2014

### **THEME: IDENTITY IN CHRIST – MY HERITAGE**

#### **As we Gather**

For the past five weeks we have been thinking about our lives in Christ –

- Who we are           - child of God
- Our values           - love and truth
- Our strengths       - faith; Holy Spirit; God given gifts
- Our desires         - obey and serve God
- Our past             - died with Jesus on the cross

This week we think about our future, the rest of our lives in / with Christ

**Reading Scripture        JOHN 21 : 15 - 25**

#### **Thinking together**

Becoming the person God wants us to be depends on how we see ourselves (who am I?) and what we believe about God / Christ (basis of our relationship with Him). If Jesus is indeed the Lord of your life then His spirit needs to rule in all of your life (Romans 8:1-17).

From the reading it is obvious that Peter was comfortable with his Lord, and was now being restored publically to his position of apostleship and leadership

**What three things did love bring Peter (vv 15-19)? Discuss**

Love always involves responsibility and sacrifice. It was only after Peter had a clear understanding of what he believed, and why he believed it, that he could commit himself to live continually in Christ

**What do you believe, and why do you believe it? (I Corinthians 2:9-16) Discuss**

Despite what Peter's future held for him, Jesus still told him to follow Him (vv18-19).

We may be uncertain about the future, but if we realise that Jesus is Lord of the whole of life, we can be confident before God, and be ready to live and to serve. Each of us as individual disciples must help care for the flock, using the gift(s) given from the Lord

**How confident and ready are you to serve the Lord (1 John 3:21-23)**

When Peter finally realised who Jesus was his life changed, his occupation changed, his identity changed and his relationship to Jesus changed

If you can, **discuss some of these changes in Peter as shepherd of Christ's flock**

Most of us waste a great deal of time and energy because we do not ask questions about the purpose of our lives and the use of our time. Lack of spiritual discipline leads to living pressured and stress filled lives

**What kind of life do you live (2 Timothy 1:6-7)? Discuss**

The emphasis in this week's reading is on the individual nature of the call to discipleship; for Peter, evangelism and pasturing - shepherding Christ's sheep – (vv20-22).

We each must serve Christ where Christ sets us. Our glory is not in comparison with others but in serving Christ in the capacity allotted to us

**In what capacity do you serve Christ (Philippians 3:1 & 7-14)? Discuss**

**In Closing**

No matter what our gift(s) or in what capacity we serve, obedience to God / Christ is the same whatever the nature of the call.

We can only prove our love for Jesus by loving others.