

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 25th May 2014

THEME: FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

As we Gather

The evidence of our love for Jesus – and of our discipleship – is obedience, as our love finds expression in keeping the commands given by the Father and the Son (John 14:15 & 21).

Reading Scripture John 14 : 15 – 21

Thinking together

Obedience to the will of God is a moral decision, not an emotion.

What do you understand this to mean? Discuss

It is not easy for us to be obedient in our own strength and Jesus promised that the Father would send someone to be with us for ever. The Greek word John used is *parakletos* – meaning someone who is called / sent in to come alongside us.

Various translations of the Bible have referred to the Spirit of God as Counsellor, the Spirit of truth, Helper, Comforter, Advocate. All of these incorporate various functions of the Holy Spirit.

The Latin word *fortis*, meaning “brave” gives rise to the name Comforter – one who enables us to be brave. He takes away our inadequacies, giving courage and the ability to cope with life and the battle for truth. By faith we can draw on the power of the Holy Spirit every day.

How have you experienced the presence of God (power of the Holy Spirit) in your daily life? Discuss

The Holy Spirit gives believers a whole new way of looking at life.

What do you understand by this sentence? Discuss

If God is not part of life, and time is not taken to wait upon Him and listen to Him, then the Holy Spirit cannot come to us (John 14:17).

The way we treat the Holy Spirit is the way we treat God, and the way we treat the Bible is the way we treat the Word of God.

How does this make you feel? Discuss

We enjoy the Father’s love through the Holy Spirit (John 14:18-21), as Jesus promised he would not leave us without His presence and teaching.

What did Jesus mean when he said this? Discuss

In Closing

For John, love is the basis of everything and obedience is the only proof of our love for Christ. Obedient, trusting love leads to increasing fellowship with Christ (deeper relationship and increasing presence) for those who look for Him.

The person who walks in God’s way, walks with God.

