

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 9th August 2015

USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO GOD'S GLORY

As We Gather

Everybody has individual talents and characteristics which make them unique. Christians are empowered for service / ministry through the Holy Spirit who gifts an individual with ability specific to the service God requires of them, or enhances a talent / characteristic already possessed (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Reading Scripture **JUDGES 4 : 4-8** **MATTHEW 26 : 6-12** **JOHN 20 : 11-18**

Thinking together

God calls into His service those He knows are best suited for the task He has for them. Often we wonder at His choices, yet through them we see God's glory.

In a time of anarchy, spiritual disobedience and a culture in which women had no power, the story of Deborah stands out because of her belief in God and her outstanding personality [Judges 4:4-5]. This remarkable woman – prophetess, judge and national leader – brought 40 years of peace to a divided and contentious nation.

What personal characteristics / spiritual gifts do you think Deborah possessed? Discuss

We all, consciously or unconsciously, make judgements about those in leadership positions in the church and at work

**How do you react when you would not have chosen someone for the position they hold?
Discuss**

In Matthew 26:6-12 we can identify two forms of hospitality – one focussed on meeting the needs of the guests and one focussed on grasping the opportunity to show love and worship. Expense is no consideration when performing an act of devotion for a loved one, and Mary brought to Jesus her most precious possession

What kind of hospitality does Jesus receive from you? Discuss

**Are you sometimes critical of what you consider wasteful expenditure in the church?
Discuss**

Do you sometimes miss an opportunity to do a good deed because you are so busy with routine duties? Discuss

Nothing given to Jesus in love is ever wasted.

The third woman of this week's study is Mary of Magdala [John20:11-18]. In her deep love for Jesus, her sorrow blinded her to the glory of the living Jesus

Do circumstances sometimes blind you to Jesus? Discuss

The essence of Christianity is 'I have seen the Lord'

Are you able to see / look for Jesus in every situation? Discuss

Once Mary recognised Jesus, He was able to entrust to her the task of telling the others of the group that He was alive. She was the first to see and speak with the resurrected Jesus – the first witness to share the good news that resurrection means moving from tears to joy.

Discuss the phrase 'It is the word that generates faith' (Romans 10:17 1 Peter 1:23-25)

In Closing

Christianity is an all inclusive faith and differences in for example gender, nationality, gifting, can be used to form unity among believers (Galatians 3:23-29 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Faith trusts in God's promises, and salvation is a free gift.

Historical faith says Christ lives, but saving faith says Christ lives in me

Which faith do you have?

