

## Home Group notes for the week following 11 March 2018

### LENT FOUR – SALVATION (LOVE AND MERCY)

#### AS WE GATHER

The whole world is sinful. Our rebellious nature distances us from God and puts us under the power of Satan (sin), but when we believe that Jesus can and will free us from the bondage of sin and save us from eternal death, our salvation occurs.

**READING SCRIPTURE**    **John 3:14-21** [optional readings Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3 + 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10]

#### THINKING TOGETHER

The origin and initiative in all salvation lies with God. He supplies the remedy to all sin (John 3:16). Our salvation and our faith are gifts from God.

**Why are human beings so often rebellious (complaining and disobedient) toward God?**  
**Discuss**

**How are we freed from the bondage of sin / Satan's power? Discuss (John 3:17)**  
[optional readings Ephesians 2:4-5 Romans 3:21-24 Galatians 2:20]

**What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Discuss (John 3:14-15)**

**What is your ongoing response to God's / Christ's gifts to you of forgiveness and eternal life? Discuss**

**How can icons, lighted candles, or the cross**  
= **help your prayer and growth in faith in God / Christ? Discuss**  
= **distract your prayer and obstruct your growth in faith in God / Christ? Discuss**  
[optional reading Numbers 21:4-9]

Not all of those meeting Jesus, hearing Him teach, and seeing Him heal people, experienced a sense of wonder and awe. The spiritually blind saw Him only as another prophet / healer, and some – the religious leaders in particular – were openly hostile to Him.

Jesus had the ability to see beyond the mask to the real motives driving people, and His righteousness made people see themselves as they really were (John 3:18-21).

Acknowledgement / confession of sin, and identification with Jesus at Calvary spring from the realisation that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

**If you are able, share with the group your experience of realising and accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour**

#### IN CLOSING

The difference between dying or living, and the difference between condemnation or salvation, is faith in Jesus, who came in love as our Saviour.

