

Home Group notes for the week following 13th May 2018

EASTER SEASON – Love unites

AS WE GATHER

The world is a battleground between the forces of evil and those under God's authority. John records that before He left them, Jesus prayed for His disciples' security, joy, unity and future glory.

READING SCRIPTURE **John 17:6-19** [optional readings Acts 1:15-17 + 21-26 Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13]

THINKING TOGETHER

In chapter 17:6-8 John writes that Jesus began His prayer for His disciples by reporting to the Father that He had completed the task of

- Revealing / making visible God to even the humblest of people
[optional readings Psalm 9:10 Psalm 20:7 John 14:9]

How did He do this? Discuss [see for example John 6:35 ; 8:12 ; 10:11]

- Making disciples who knew who He was, accepted Him as Lord, and through whom He would be present in and to the world

Does your life reveal Jesus' character and presence? Discuss (John 17:18)
[optional readings Matthew 5:13-16 Psalm 22:22]

Jesus asked that God would

- Keep His chosen believers safe from Satan's power (John 17:15)

How / in what ways do your friends influence your relationship with God? Discuss

How are believers protected by God? Discuss (John 17:8 + 14)

[optional readings Hebrews 4:12-14 & 7:26-27 Ephesians 6:11 John 10:26-30
2 Timothy 3:16]

- Enable His disciples to experience unity in the way that He was united with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 17:11)

What is the nature of such unity? Discuss (John 3:16)

Do you need to / is it necessary to feel close to God / Jesus to know you belong to and are loved by Him? Discuss (John 17:14) [optional reading Exodus 14:20]

Why was / is unity among believers so important? Discuss (John 17:13)

How is such unity / union manifested in the Church today? Discuss

Why is Christian fellowship so important for believers? Discuss

- Sanctify His disciples by the truth / Word (John 17:17)

Does being exposed to / knowing the truth, mean that believers are automatically committed to the truth? Discuss (John 17:17)

[optional readings Acts 1:15-17 Matthew 12:9-14]

How does the truth sanctify / consecrate believers? Discuss

[optional readings Jeremiah 1:5 Exodus 28:41 Romans 12:12]

IN CLOSING

Believers are secure in Christ by the very nature of God and salvation, and our joy in Christ comes from knowing His love – which touches our inner person.

Christians are slowly transformed and united as with our minds we learn words of truth, with our hearts we develop Christ-like love, and through the Holy Spirit we yield to God's plan for our lives.

How is your journey of unity through love going?

PRAYER

Triune God,
Jesus prayed that we might be one;
help us to transcend our differences and
find our unity in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen