

Home Group notes for the week following 15th April 2018

EASTER SEASON – The Risen Christ Revealed

AS WE GATHER

For Luke there were no barriers to the love of God in Jesus Christ, and throughout his gospel he presents the message of Jesus as the message of the promise, believing that it is through demonstrating / living the love of God that people are brought to God

READING SCRIPTURE **Luke 24:36b-48** [optional readings Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7]

THINKING TOGETHER

The concept of resurrection is the essence of Christianity, and that is why Luke ends his book / gospel with a record of some of the appearances to His followers of the resurrected, living Jesus.

What was Christ's purpose in meeting with His followers? Discuss (Luke 24:36-38)

Have you ever received such good news that you have found it hard to believe it? Discuss

In this reading Luke stresses

- The reality of the resurrection (Luke 24:38-43) The resurrected body of Jesus was visible and tangible, but immortal, with divine power.

What are the implications of this for Christ's followers today? Discuss
[optional reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 and 42-50]

- That the cross was part of God's plan for reconciling humans to Himself, because the cross is the one place on earth, when, in a moment of time, we see the eternal love of God (Luke 24:44-46). Luke wanted his readers to know that Christ's message of God's love and forgiveness is for the whole world (John 3:16)

How does this make you feel? Discuss

Luke records that Jesus revealed that the whole of the Old Testament points to the Messiah – as prophet, His suffering, and His resurrection [optional readings Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 22
Isaiah 53 Psalm 16:9-11]; and He 'opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures' (Luke 24:45).

How does Christ open the minds of His followers today? Discuss

The key to understanding the Bible is to see Jesus Christ on every page (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Why is it important that Christians understand the Scriptures? Discuss
[optional readings Galatians 2:20 Romans 10:17 Romans 5:1-3 Philippians 4:6-7]

- That the Church was / is given the power needed to be sent out into the world carrying the message of salvation - repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47-49)

How does a Christian's lifestyle carry / reveal the living Christ to others? Discuss

IN CLOSING

Personally meeting with the risen Jesus replaces perplexity and confusion with certainty, and discouragement and unbelief with insight, peace, renewed faith and joy.

Do you meet with Jesus every day?

PRAYER

Risen Christ,

you revealed yourself to the disciples and calmed their fears.

Meet with us in our uncertainties and walk with us into the new life you bring,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen