

## Home Group notes for the week following 20th May 2018

### PENTECOST

#### AS WE GATHER

After again warning His disciples of the opposition they could expect against the Church and their ministry, Jesus went on to tell them of the provision made to strengthen, guide and encourage them in their work.

**READING SCRIPTURE**    **John 11:26-27 + 16:4b-15**    [optional readings    Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:26-36    Ezekiel 37:1-14    Romans 8:22-27]

#### THINKING TOGETHER

Jesus knew that His disciples viewed His leaving them from a perspective of grief and fear, because they did not yet understand the meaning of what lay ahead in Jerusalem (John 16:4-6)

**What arrangements had Jesus made for His continued presence with His disciples?**

**Discuss**            **(John 15:26-27 + 16:7)**

**Who is the Counsellor / Spirit of Truth / Holy Spirit? Discuss (John 15:26)**

[optional readings        Acts 2:17        1 Corinthians 12:3]

Christians see the world as it is and, through the functioning of the Holy Spirit, as we understand God's power we realise that He is sufficient to fulfil our every need [Romans 8:26-27 Ephesians 1:3-4].

**How does Jesus' ascension mean that He is now able to be present to / in the whole world? Discuss** [optional reading Acts 2:17-21]

**What functions of the Holy Spirit does Jesus outline for His disciples? Discuss (John 15:26-27 + 16:8-11)**

The great work of the Holy Spirit is the ongoing revelation of God's truth. This is His gift to mankind. The more we know Jesus, the more we become like Him, and the more He can reveal to us

**How is God's truth revealed to us / to the world? Discuss (John 16:12-15)**

[Optional readings    Galatians 5:16    Philippians 3:3    Acts 1:8]

**What changes have you noticed in yourself / a friend after attending an Alpha Course / Mighty Men or Emmaus weekend? Discuss**

At Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came, He empowered Peter, whose preaching of the Word brought conviction to those who heard him (John 16:8)

**What is the sin of which the Holy Spirit convicts the world? Discuss (John 3:18-21)**

**How does the Holy Spirit also convince the world of the righteousness of Christ?**

**Discuss (John 16:13-14)** [optional readings    Matthew 17:54    Galatians 5:22-25  
Ephesians 2:1-5    Acts 9:10]

**Have you had a Pentecost experience? Discuss**

[optional readings Acts 2:1-4 1 Kings 19:10-13]

Just as Jesus had to have a body to do His work on earth, so the Spirit of God needs a body to implement His ministries – the Church. Christians are His tools and His temples, whom He uses to glorify Christ and witness to the lost of the world [optional reading 2 Corinthians 6:16b]

**How does this make you feel? Discuss**

The work of the Holy Spirit is never divorced from Jesus Christ or the Word of God. Truth is always revealed as an ongoing process (John 16:13)

[optional readings John 14:6 John 17:17]

**IN CLOSING**

Without the power of the Holy Spirit we cannot live victoriously in the world. It is the Holy Spirit who guides, strengthens and encourages us through constant revelations of God. Submission to and knowledge of Christ go hand in hand, and are proof that there is no end to God's revelation of Himself

**Why do Christians need to study the Word of God (Scripture)?**

**PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
with wind from heaven and tongues of flame you poured out  
your Spirit on the disciples. Set our hearts on fire with joy and  
power and send us out as witnesses to the wonder of your love.

Amen