

## Home Group notes for the week following 22nd April 2018

### EASTER SEASON – Love Revealed

#### AS WE GATHER

This week's reading from the Gospel begins with one of the "I am" sayings of Jesus, as He revealed the intrinsic goodness of His nature. He knew that the cross and glory go together, and obedience to the Father and love for us led Him to choose to give His life so that we might live.

**READING SCRIPTURE** John 10:11-18 Psalm 23 [optional readings Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24]

#### THINKING TOGETHER

In the Bible- and still in many cultures today – a person's name is considered to reflect the nature / being of the individual. Those who follow Jesus Christ and call themselves Christians can therefore be said to be identifying themselves with the nature and being of Christ

**How does considering yourself to be a Christian impact on you? Discuss**

**How can we reveal / demonstrate our love for Jesus? Discuss**  
[optional reading John 5:2]

Jesus referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11 + 14 Mark 10:17-18). The Shepherd owns the sheep, is committed to caring for and protecting them – even to the point of risking / giving His life for them, and knows them intimately – their nature, name and personal needs (John 10:11, 14-15, 17-18) [optional readings John 17:3 1:42 + 20:16 Luke 19:5 Psalm 23]

Jesus reveals His love for 'His own' in the way He cares for them. As we follow our Shepherd Lord, we learn to know Him by His voice (Word) and we learn to love and trust Him (Psalm 23:1 + 6)

**How does He care for you? Discuss**

**What are the qualities of those who follow Jesus the Good Shepherd? Discuss (Psalm 23)**

**As an envoy / messenger of Jesus, are you a good / loyal shepherd in the Church? Discuss**

All of history shows that the Church is vulnerable to attack – from outside and from within. In the Church there are many shepherds (leaders and teachers)

**Are all Church leaders / teachers fully committed / faithful to their calling? Discuss**  
[optional reading Acts 20:28-30]

**How can you recognise false shepherds? Discuss**

On more than one occasion Jesus revealed His love for all people by word and by His actions [optional reading John 4]

**Who are the 'other sheep' Jesus referred to in John 10:16? Discuss**  
[optional reading Ephesians 2:11-13]

**How do you reveal love to these folk? Discuss** [optional reading James 2:14-17]

**How does your local church reveal the love of Jesus to these folk? Discuss**

**IN CLOSING**

Real love is an action not a feeling, and the day is coming when Jesus will be Shepherd to all people as there will be only one flock.

The people of God who belong to the Good Shepherd are all over the world [optional readings Acts 18:1-11 1 Peter 2:9-10]

**How clearly do your actions say you really love others?**

**PRAYER**

Good Shepherd,

by laying down your life for your flock you revealed your love for all people.

Grant that all who hear your voice may know you who knows us each by name,  
and will follow where you lead. Amen