

Home Group notes for the week following 26th August 2018

PERSEVERING

AS WE GATHER

God's living presence in the hearts of those who love Him is a blessing fulfilled through Jesus, Messiah for the whole world, who through His Spirit helps us grow in strength and grace.

READING SCRIPTURE JOHN 6:55-69 [optional readings Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30 + 41-43
Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20]

THINKING TOGETHER

We can meet God anywhere and at an time, but going into a place of worship helps us let go the demands of the world so we can focus (meditate and pray) on Him

Have you experience this? Discuss

We all go through bad times in our journey through life, but if we love and trust God we are able to look on these times as opportunities to re-experience His faithfulness

How does God support and strengthen you when you are in a bad place? Discuss
[optional reading Ephesians 6:10-20]

Many people find Jesus' teachings / truths hard to accept because they do not fully understand, or misinterpret / cannot accept, what He says (John 6:56-60)

What is your response when you find a passage of Scripture offensive or feel it cannot apply to you? Discuss

All spiritual renewal begins and ends with God. It is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that we see our need for a new life. He reveals truth to us, lives within us, and enables us to respond to that truth

Why did Jesus' words cause many of His followers to leave Him? Discuss (John 6:66)

There is no middle ground with Jesus – we have the choice of accepting Him as Lord and King, or we can turn away from Him because we don't like what He expects of us. It is the magnitude of Christ's morality that troubles us. Christianity demands surrender and acceptance of Christ as the final authority. It challenges all aspects of our lives.

Have you ever experienced scorn, unfair treatment, rejection because you have had the courage to act on God's truth? Discuss

Christ alone can give us true purpose and the power / strength to persevere and achieve that purpose against the constant opposition that comes from without from and within. Knowing God's eternal plan for us helps us through difficulties [optional readings John 14:6 Ephesians 6:19-20]

What is God's eternal plan for His people? Discuss (John 6:58)

If you reject Jesus to whom would you turn for help? Discuss (John 6:68)

IN CLOSING

Those of Jesus' followers / disciples who left Him returned to their old life, old religion and old helpless situation. They would not accept His way and walk with Him

When serving Christ becomes hard do you continue or give up?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you have the words of eternal life.
Set your living bread before us that, feasting round
your table, we may be strengthened to continue the
work to which you call us. Amen

NOTE TO HOME GROUPS

Please accept my apologies for the incorrect heading of last week's notes, and the wording of the final question.

The heading should have read EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS

The final question – under the section Conclusion, should have the words "the glory of God" instead of 'the experience of God' Thank you