

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 10th April 2016

## **THE EASTER SEASON – PETER RESTORED AND COMMISSIONED**

### **As we Gather**

The Gospels all emphasise that the risen Christ was a real person, not a vision or imagined, and John's story shows that only a real person could / would make a fire on the beach to cook and share a meal (John 21:1-19).

**Reading Scripture**      **John 21:1-19**    see also    **Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)**      **Revelation 5:11-14**

### **Thinking Together**

John recounts the story of Peter's restoration to Apostleship and leadership, to teach us how to relate to the risen Christ.

Peter and Christ had met privately (Luke 24:34    1 Corinthians 15:5) before this meeting on the beach, but since Peter had denied his Lord publicly, he now had to be publicly restored to his former position (John 21:9-18).

Seven of the twelve disciples Jesus chose to follow him were fishermen

#### **Why do you think this was so? Discuss**

That morning it was John who first recognised Jesus on the beach, but it was Peter who impulsively jumped out of the boat

#### **What does this tell you about the relationship between Christ and Peter? Discuss**

By sharing a meal and fellowship with the group, Jesus gave Peter time to be comfortable physically (to dry off, warm up, enjoy fellowship, and satisfy his hunger), before dealing with his spiritual needs (John 21:12-14) by taking Peter through an experience that would make him face his real feelings, and would remove the cloud of his denial.

Caring for the physical can prepare the way for spiritual ministry

#### **Does the Church today work this way? Discuss**

In spite of his faults and failures Peter really did love the Lord and was not ashamed to admit it.

#### **How would you respond if Jesus asked you 'do you truly love me?' Discuss**

Peter's life changed radically when he understood the significance of Jesus' words about His death and resurrection, and he finally understood who Jesus was – Creator, Saviour and Redeemer.

#### **Do you know Jesus as Creator, Saviour and Redeemer? Discuss (Acts 9:1-6 and Revelation 3:20)**

When Jesus told Peter to 'feed my lambs (John 21:15), 'take care of my sheep' (John 21:16) and 'feed my sheep' (John 21:17), Peter was commissioned to be both evangelist /fisher of men and pastor /shepherd of the flock; just as later Paul was (Acts 9:1-20).

Evangelism and pasturing cannot be separated (2Timothy 4:2+5) and it is an awesome privilege and responsibility to be a shepherd of God's flock (1 Peter 5:2+3).

Each of us has a gift or gifts which we should use to protect and nurture Christ's flock, because we love Jesus and also His sheep (Ephesians 4:4-6 and 11-13).

**Are you willing to serve Jesus, no matter what the cost? Discuss**  
**(John 21:18-19 2 Corinthians 11:22-28)**

### **In Closing**

Emphasis today is on witnessing for Christ and working for Christ, but not much is said about worshipping Him.

To worship means to ascribe worth – to use all that we are and have to praise God for all that He is and does (Revelation 5:12).

Thanks giving and praise form the only gift we who have nothing can give to Him who has everything (Revelation 5:11-14)

**Do you think Christians should spend more time reflecting and worshipping than they tend to do? Discuss**

### **PRAYER**

Merciful God whose love will not let us go,  
restore in us the power of our calling that we may  
boldly fulfil the tasks you set before us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit  
is worthy of blessing and honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.

Amen