

## Home Group notes for the week following 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### FAMILY OF GOD

#### AS WE GATHER

Throughout the Bible we read how again and again God's people lost their focus and reliance on Him, becoming disobedient to His will and plans for them. They no longer lived lives rich in praise and thanksgiving for God's material and spiritual blessings and for answered prayer.

**READING SCRIPTURE** **Mark 3:20-35** [optional readings 1 Samuel 8:4-11 + 16-20 Psalm 138  
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1]

#### THINKING TOGETHER

In the readings for this week, Mark records Jesus' concept of family / kinship and what it means to be part of God's family / kingdom.

In order to accomplish His work for the Father, Jesus had given up everything the world holds dear –

- Security, as He left a secure job to become a wandering preacher
- Safety, as His teachings were radically opposed to orthodoxy
- Social norms (standards and values), as He gathered round Him a strange group of friends

Jesus' family was concerned for Him (Mark 3:20-21). They could not understand why He was not influenced by them or by His own needs, because family in Jewish society was of prime importance.

**Have you ever had your commitment to doing God's will / answering God's call on your life, misunderstood by family / friends? Discuss**

Jesus' concept of family / kinship is not based merely on flesh and blood. It is based on relationship. For Jesus, His family is made up of all those who do the will of God; spiritual relationships being stronger and longer lasting than physical relationships (Mark 3:31-35). The spiritual family of God is all inclusive, each member being equally loved.

Kinship is a relationship which shares –

- A common experience

**What is the common experience of all Christians? Discuss (Luke 5:8)**

- A common interest

**What is the common interest of all Christians? Discuss (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

- A common obedience

**What unites / binds together all Christians? Discuss**

- A common goal

**What is the common goal of all Christians? Discuss**

Everyone has the privilege of loving God, obeying Him and becoming part of His family.

**How does someone become part of the family of God? Discuss** [optional readings John 3:1-7 1 Peter 1:22-25 John 1:11-13 Ephesians 2:8-9]

**How do you determine priorities when it comes to commitment to the family of God and commitment to your physical family? Discuss**

The religious leaders took advantage of the situation by accusing Jesus of practicing black magic – of using Satan’s power, not God’s power, to heal people.

**How did Jesus respond to this attack? Discuss**

Jesus saw in life the essential struggle between the power of Satan and the power of God, and made it clear that God forgives all sin and all blasphemy (Mark 3:28). Yet He warned against the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit. In doing this He revealed again the nature and patience of God.

Anyone who refuses the guidance of God’s Spirit often enough becomes incapable of recognising truth. Evil, to such a person, becomes good and good becomes evil. Penitence is the only condition of forgiveness. Without repentance there is no forgiveness.

**Why would the religious leaders not accept that Jesus had the power of God? Discuss**

**How does a person gain entry to God’s kingdom? Discuss**

[optional reading John 3:16-21 + 31]

**IN CLOSING**

Jesus was prepared to risk everything for the Father, and the fact that He could defeat demons (spiritual healing) and diseases (physical healing) so easily showed that the conquest of Satan had begun

**Where and when was Satan’s power defeated?**

**PRAYER**

Our Father,  
from whom every family on earth takes its name;  
help us to do your will, that as sisters and brothers  
of Christ, we may love and serve you and one another.

Amen