

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 10th May 2015

BEARING FRUIT

As We Gather

Those who live in intimate and loving relationship with Christ learn the extent of His mission and His love [Psalm 25:14]

Reading Scripture JOHN 15 : 9 - 17

Thinking together

While on earth, Jesus had many followers, but chose / called those whom He wanted to be His disciples. Those who accepted His call became His inner circle, His companions and friends – servants of God.

Do others recognise you as a disciple / servant of God? Discuss (John 15:3-4 + 9-14)

In your daily walk with Christ, as His disciple you develop His viewpoint, His standards, and slowly grow in Godliness (Christ-likeness).

What does growing in Godliness mean / entail? Discuss
[see John 7:24 12:32 15:10-12 17:20-23 18:36]

The branches of the vine (John 15:5) do not eat the fruit they bear, they feed others. As a disciple of Jesus you receive His *joy* (John 15:11), *love* (15:12), and *friendship* (15:14-16)

What is the purpose of being given these gifts? Discuss
[see Proverbs 10:17a 21a 30a & James 2:23-24]

What types of lasting fruit (John 15:16-17) can a disciple of Christ bear? Discuss
[see Romans 1:13 John 4:35-38 Romans 6:22 Romans 15:26-28
Galatians 5:22-25 Colossians 1:3-12 Hebrews 13:15-16]

As friends of Christ, Christians have the right to come into His / God's presence at any time [Isaiah 41:8-10], and are privileged to be called His partners, ambassadors, advertisements, and members of the family of God.

Christians share Christ's life and His love (John 15:9), bear fruit [Matthew 7:20], and have His promise that whatever you ask of God in His (Christ's) name will be given to you (John 15:7).

That is, your prayers will be effective if they are

- Prayers of faith [James 5:15-16]
- Prayers of which Christ would approve
- Prayers within the will of God
- Prayers which are unselfish [Matthew 18:19-20]

Share some of your prayer experience(s) with the group

In Closing

Each of us is as close to God as we choose to be (John 15:7-8).

Jesus promised never to leave us, and He expects us to believe this truth [John 14:26-27], and sing His praises in all circumstances [Psalm 98].

PRAYER

Risen Lord, you call us your friends.

Make our hearts bold with love for one another, that we might live your justice and sing your praise in the new song of your marvellous victory, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen