

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 11th September 2016

THE GOD WHO CARES

As we Gather

The human race has turned away from God – gone astray; yet His judgement is tempered by mercy because He loves those whom He has created.

Reading Scripture Jeremiah 4:11-12 + 22-28 Psalm 14 1Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

Thinking Together

People can feel so guilt-ridden by their past that they think God could never forgive and accept them. It is only when they meet Christ that they become aware of His grace and mercy (1Timothy 1:12-17)

What is your response to the mercy and grace God has shown you? Discuss

Did you choose Christ, or did He choose you? Discuss

The message of salvation is that God welcomes and forgives repentant sinners. He searches for the lost (Luke 15:1-10 John 6:37 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).

Throughout His ministry Jesus attracted and consorted with those considered social outcasts. He cared about them, understood their needs and tried to help them

How have you experienced Jesus' love and care? Discuss

The Pharisees and Scribes repelled these people, because they kept them at a distance, criticised them, were arrogant and self-righteous (Luke 18:9-14), and totally blind to the fact that they needed saving as much as other sinners

What does this say about some churches today? Discuss

What keeps you away from people who need Christ? Discuss

In Luke 15:1-10 we read two parables that Jesus told when confronted by the religious leaders

- The sheep were lost through foolishness (Isaiah 53:6 1 Peter 2:25)
- The coin was lost through carelessness

Being lost means

- Being out of place – that is out of fellowship with God

To what danger(s) does this expose the lost sinner? Discuss

- Being without purpose – that is feeling worthless / of no value to God and others

How do you feel about your position in the church / group? Discuss

Being found (saved) means

- Being reconciled to God – being in place
- Having purpose – serving God
- Being out of danger – protected and safe

In Closing

This teaching of Jesus – that out of love God searches for the lost – was a radical new concept for His listeners. In spite of their supposed knowledge of Scripture, the Scribes and Pharisees forgot that

- God looked for Adam and Eve in the garden when they sinned and hid from Him (Genesis 3:8-9)
- God is like a father who pities his wayward children (Luke 15:11-24 Psalm 103:8-14)

We see this love incarnate in Jesus who came to seek and save the lost

Do you sometimes feel far from God? If so when and why?

PRAYER

Loving God, you seek us whenever we wander away from you.
Find and embrace us, so that through Jesus we may rejoice in the safety
of your loving arms. Amen