

Home Group notes for the week following 17th June 2018

KINGDOM PEOPLE

AS WE GATHER

Through faith in Jesus Christ we become citizens of the heavenly nation, children of God's family and subjects of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

READING SCRIPTURE **Mark 4:26-34** [optional readings 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 + 14-17]

THINKING TOGETHER

If we believe in Jesus Christ, we live as new beings in dynamic / vital relationship with Him, focussing on obedience to and pleasing, God. Our true strength and power lie in worship, and trust in the power of the Spirit of God [optional readings Ephesians 2:8-9 1 Corinthians 3:16 and Colossians 2:6-10]

Do you really trust God in all situations, turning to Him first? Discuss (Psalm 20:6-7)

The parable in Mark 4:26-29 reminds us that Spiritual growth is a gradual, ongoing process. We cannot make ourselves grow spiritually, and we do not know how we mature spiritually. However, nothing can stop this growth. It can be obstructed by human disobedience, but nothing can stop the inevitable harvest / the purposes of God

If we continue to do good and trust God, what type of harvest do we reap? Discuss
[optional reading Galatians 6:8-10]

**As we learn to wait upon the Lord, we learn patience, hope and readiness / preparedness.
Discuss this statement**

Jesus used parables to challenge sincere seekers to discover the meaning of His words. Much of His teaching was against hypocrisy and sinful / selfish motives. Those who listened carefully knew what He was talking about (Mark 4:33-34)

What do you do when you find one of Jesus' teachings difficult to understand? Discuss

Do you think the religious leaders grasped the deeper / spiritual meaning of Jesus' parables? Discuss [optional readings Mark 8:11 and 11:18]

Some commentators see this parable (Mark 4:30-34) as both encouragement and a warning.

The Church grew from small beginnings (12 Apostles) and increased steadily in spite of weaknesses and sinfulness [optional readings 1 Corinthians 15:6 Acts 4:4, 5:14 and 6:1-7].

The cumulative effect of small efforts can produce amazing results
[optional readings Ezekiel 17:22-24 Daniel 4:10-11 + 21]

Have you witnessed or experienced amazing Church growth, and do you know what brings this about? Discuss

Growth is only one part of the story. The faster and bigger the increase in numbers, the greater the possibility for both good and bad members being found among the members. Some growth gives Satan the opportunity to work [optional readings Acts 5:1-11 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Matthew 13:47-50]

What kinds of problems arise in a rapidly growing faith community? Discuss

Jesus had to teach His disciples about the Kingdom – its nature and requirements. He also had to teach them that not all who followed them were sincere seekers (James 1:22-25).

The Church is the family of God, and gives room for many opinions and theologies. In it all nations meet. Such is the Kingdom of heaven

IN CLOSING

We can measure the effectiveness of our Bible study time by the effect it has on our behaviour and attitudes.

Do you put into action what you have studied?

PRAYER

Creator God,
through your Son you have planted the seeds of the kingdom in us.
Give us the grace not to live for ourselves alone, and the faith to labour
for the harvest of the new creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PLEASE NOTE

THERE WILL BE NO NOTES FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

HOME GROUPS NOTES WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN FROM SUNDAY 22 JULY.