

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015

## **USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO GOD'S GLORY**

### **As We Gather**

Many people view religion from the perspective of the benefit(s) they can obtain from it (John 6:24-26). At the same time, many believers find it difficult to know what God wants from them (John 6:28), even though they know that Jesus has the truth, and that His way is the way to live. We all need to learn to view sin as God does (2 Samuel 11:27 & 12:9a).

**Reading Scripture**    2 SAMUEL 11:26 – 12:13a    Psalm 51:1-12    John 6:24-35

### **Thinking together**

David had become insensitive to / developed a dulled awareness of his sin and the rights of others, and this is the first time it is recorded that he had displeased God (2 Samuel 11:26-12:9).

**How did David react when Nathan told him he was the man in the story? Discuss**  
(2 Samuel 12:13 & Psalm 51:1-12)

**Have you ever been critical of someone, only to realise that you have the same flaws?**  
**Discuss**

**When you are justifiably criticised, does your reaction / response bring glory to God?**  
**Discuss**

Even when we deeply regret and sincerely repent our sin the consequences still affect our lives, the lives of others, and our relationship with God

**How does knowing this make you feel? Discuss**

**How does focussing on Jesus alter our perspective on life and our life-style? Discuss**  
(John 6:9 and Ephesians 2:8-10)

John records that the people went in search of Jesus (John 6:24-25). We too often search for Jesus, even when we do not recognise / want to acknowledge our spiritual hunger for truth, life and love as the source of inner restlessness / emptiness

**How do we try to inject into our lives meaning / joy when we do not / cannot recognise our spiritual hunger? Discuss**    [Isaiah 55:2-3a]

When Jesus told the people that the only work God wants from us is faith {belief and trust in 'the one He sent from heaven' (John 6:29)} the Jewish leaders challenged Him to prove what He said. They were looking to see if He was Messiah [1 Corinthians 1:22-24].

Jesus pointed them to God when He reminded them that it was God not Moses who gave the 'bread from heaven' in the desert, just as it is God who supplies spiritual bread in the one who came down from heaven to give the gift of life (John 6:30-33).

In John 6:35 we read the first of Jesus' seven "I am" statements recorded in John's Gospel

**What does it mean to 'come to' and 'believe' in Jesus? Discuss**

In an intimate relationship with Christ we learn that

- God is love - therefore our lives need to be / should be filled with love and service to others

**In what way(s) does this bring glory to God? Discuss**

- God is holiness - therefore our lives need to / must reflect this holiness in purity of thought and deed

**How does this bring glory to God? Discuss**

- God is wisdom - therefore our lives must be submissive to and trust in the wisdom developed in those who walk closely with Christ

**In the church, in what way(s) does this bring glory to God? Discuss**

**In Closing**

All spiritual growth is based on accepting that Jesus is who He said He is [Matthew 16:15-16].

Un-confessed sin blocks our relationship with God, while faith (the conscious and deliberate choice to act on the belief that what God /Jesus say is true) results in trust, praise and joy – all of which bring glory to God.

