

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 26 July 2015

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

### **As We Gather**

This week we look at the consequences / effects of our decisions on others and on our own (spiritual) relationship with God

**Reading Scripture**      **MARK 10:35-45**    **ACTS 11:27 – 12:3**      **2 SAMUEL 11:1-15**

### **Thinking together**

Throughout their journey to Jerusalem, Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for what was to happen. Once again, in Mark 10:35-45, we see their misunderstanding through muddled thinking, when James and John, out of their love and belief in Jesus, asked for special privileges when He entered His glory. Yet they could not grasp the price which would have to be paid (see also Acts 12:1-3).

**What was the effect of their request on the other disciples? Discuss**

**How did Jesus respond? Discuss**

**How have you felt when someone in a group you belong to has looked for special treatment? Discuss**

After Jesus' ascension, the church in Jerusalem grew steadily and sent out missionaries to plant new churches, as Jesus had commanded.

The church at Antioch grew rapidly under the teaching of Paul and Barnabas, and on hearing of the severity of the drought in Judea, the members decided to send as much help to Jerusalem as they could. In this way they were implementing the spiritual principle of 'blessed to be a blessing' and returning blessing to the church in Jerusalem.

**How had the church in Jerusalem blessed the people of Antioch? Discuss**  
**[Galatians 6:6]**

**Is this principle still the pattern of Christian giving today? Discuss**  
**(Acts 11:29)**

**How can implementing this principle bring glory to God? Discuss**

We are sometimes faced with an obviously correct choice, yet we do not want to make that choice. Just as sometimes we are faced with choices, all of which seem to be wrong, yet may be tempting.

In 2 Samuel 11:1-15, we read that David chose not to go out with his army, but to stay home (v 1)

**What were the consequences of this decision? Discuss**

**How could David have resisted temptation? Discuss**

**How can you resist temptation? Discuss**

Basheba and Joab were faced with two choices, both of which were wrong

**How would you deal with such a situation? Discuss**

### **In Closing**

Prayer, Scripture and Christian community all play an important part in keeping us focused on making decisions that will glorify God.

**Do these three elements form part of every decision - you make? - the church makes?**

