

Home Group notes for the week following 6 August 2017

DISCIPLESHIP: Hunger for

AS WE GATHER

All human beings want and need to belong, to be accepted, to be loved. We all experience this yearning, this hunger in a different way, and look for what will satisfy our particular need. The greater the hunger, the more / longer we are prepared to work and make sacrifices to achieve satisfaction.

READING SCRIPTURE **Genesis 32:22-31** **Psalms 17:1-7** **Romans 9:1-5** **Matthew 14:13-21**

THINKING TOGETHER

Jesus and His disciples desperately needed rest, and also time to come to terms with John's death (Matthew 14:1-12), and the fact that they too were in danger from the authorities. Jesus, particularly, knowing what lay ahead in Jerusalem, also needed time with His Father to strengthen Him for what was to come (Matthew 14:13)

How do you deal with exhaustion / suffering? Discuss

In the Matthew reading this week we see how Jesus put aside His own needs when He saw the needs of the crowds who followed Him and His disciples

What were the needs that Jesus saw when He looked at

- The crowds? - His disciples? Discuss

What are the needs Jesus sees when He looks at you? Discuss

(Genesis 32:22-31 Psalms 17:1-2 + 7)

How concerned are you for

- The needs of others Discuss (Matthew 14:15)
- Those who do not know Christ? Discuss (Romans 9:1-5)

How do you respond to people who make constant demands on you or invade your privacy? Discuss (Psalms 17:6 Matthew 14:14 + 16)

Throughout His ministry of healing and teaching, Jesus was revealing to His disciples (then and today) that all gifts come from God, and if we bring what we have to Him, He is able to use and multiply this until our talent, time, money or effort is more than enough for the given situation (Matthew 14:17-19)

Have you ever experienced this? Discuss

Just as His miracles reveal the generosity, love and power of Christ, so if we give what we have to Him and obey His commands (know and do His will) we become His hands / His voice through which His truth and His love can enter lives

When last did you talk to someone about Jesus? Discuss

Sometimes when we get caught up in ministry or fundraising activities in our local church, we forget that we are “distributors” not “manufacturers”, and that God’s generosity and our thrifty use of His bounty must go hand-in-hand

Do you ever waste / misuse your resources? Discuss

Do you see waste / misuse of resources in your local church? Discuss

When we begin to think that it is our hard work that creates / increases the resources available to us we lose our pleasure in serving the Lord, and so cannot draw on Him for spiritual food to strengthen us (Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:20)

What is the spiritual food Christ gives us? Discuss

IN CLOSING

Matthew’s account of the feeding of the 5000 (14:13-21) is for us a sermon in action. Only Christ can save, and Jesus is the Bread of Life. Only He can satisfy the hunger of the heart (Isaiah 55:1-7)

What do you understand by ‘Hunger of the Heart’?

PRAYER

Glorious God,
you shower creation with abundance. Awaken in us a
hunger for food that satisfies, that in the miracle of being
fed we will be empowered to feed the hungry in Jesus’ name.

Amen