

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 7th May 2017

## **ROOTED IN CHRIST – Identified and Called**

### **As we Gather**

In the Jewish mind a shepherd was any kind of leader – spiritual or political – and the truths that cluster round the picture / image of a shepherd and his sheep are found throughout the Bible (see for example Isaiah 56:9-12 Jeremiah 23:1-4 and 25:32-38 Ezekiel 34)

**Reading Scripture Acts 242-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-28 John10:1-10**

### **Thinking Together**

In the time of Jesus a shepherd lived with his sheep out on the hill grazings. At night he would gather them into a roughly made pen. As these pens had no gates the shepherds slept across the opening to protect his sheep. He knew each one individually because sheep were kept mainly for their wool, and so would be with the shepherd for years. He would give them names which described them and when he called they would recognise and respond to his special call.

In Psalm 23 David based his picture of the Lord on his own early life experiences as a shepherd

**Based on your life experiences how would you describe the Lord? Discuss**

Jesus is the gate to God's salvation for us, and as such He offers us access to God – to safety and security, to a life that is abundantly fuller and richer than it was without Him as our protector (Ephesians 12:18; Hebrews 10:19-20).  
It is only when we live with Christ that life becomes worth living

**How have you experienced the difference? Discuss**

Just as the shepherd leads the sheep out of danger and into his flock (John 10:9), so Jesus knows each of us intimately and what our needs are. He calls us by name and leads us out of the bondage of sin into the freedom of His Church. Those who trust Him enter His flock (family) and fold (kingdom) to enjoy the riches of the life He offers

**Who / what are the thieves and robbers we have to watch out for today? Discuss  
(John 12:8)**

**Against whom / which thief must we be most on guard? Discuss  
(John 10:10 Genesis 3:13)**

**What are the riches of the life that Christ offers? Discuss (Psalm 23 Acts 2:42-47)**

**What are the risks / consequences of being identified as a Christ follower? Discuss  
(1 Peter 2:19-28 John 10:11)**

**How can you recognise a local church that is Christ rooted? Discuss  
(Acts 2:42-47)**

**What are you doing to make your local church a place that attracts others to Christ?  
Discuss**

### **In Closing**

A healthy faith community is a fellowship of praying and praising believers, presenting Jesus to the world

**With which of Christ's characteristics do you most identify?**

### **PRAYER**

Good Shepherd, you are the gate which secures the sheepfold.  
Grant that all who hear your voice may know you, who calls each  
of us by name, and follow where you lead.

Amen