

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 3 August 2014

THEME: DISCIPLESHIP

As we Gather

When God entered history as a man, the kingdom of heaven arrived on earth. Jesus used the same words that John the Baptist had used when He (Jesus) commanded His listeners to repent. Throughout His ministry Jesus emphasised the place of faith in the life of the disciple, and the Gospels record many examples of this [see for example Luke 12:22-32].

The message is still the same today, because Christ reigns in the hearts of believers.

Reading Scripture MATTHEW 4 : 17 - 22 and 14 : 22 - 33

Thinking together

In order to achieve His purposes, Jesus calls into His service ordinary people who will trust themselves to Him. He chooses them for their characteristics and abilities.

**Why do you think Jesus called fishermen into His service? Discuss
(Matthew 4:18-22)**

Why do you think they responded to His call? Discuss

Why do you think Jesus called you into His service? Discuss

Why did you respond to His call?

Jesus and His band of close disciples became well known as they travelled throughout Galilee. Crowds constantly followed them, wanting to hear more of Jesus' teachings and see more of His wonders [see for example Mark 1:29-39]. It became difficult for the group to have time alone together.

**Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples away? Discuss
(Matthew 14:22-23)**

**Why is it so important for disciples today to spent time apart with Jesus / God in prayer?
Discuss**

Storms in the sea of Galilee were frequent and sudden, just as today troubles / challenges in life are sudden and unexpected. In their fear in the storm the disciples did not expect to see and so did not recognise, Jesus (Matthew 14:24-26).

How do you react when bad things happen in your life? Discuss

Jesus gives His disciples the power to follow Him, even in adversity, and encourages adventurousness, even when their faith lacks confidence / is underdeveloped (Matthew 14:28-31).

What risks have you taken in your journey with Christ? Discuss

Does your faith sometimes waver? Discuss

When we encounter troubles / trials / challenges while we are within the will of God (being obedient), we can draw courage and reassurance from knowing that

- Jesus brought me here (Matthew 14:29 & John 16:33)

Why do you think Jesus / God allows such situations? Discuss

- Jesus is praying for me (Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 4:14-16)

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus prays for you? Discuss

- Jesus will come to me ((Mark 6:47-48 & Matthew 14:27)

Do you believe that troubles (surgery / bereavement) bring you nearer to Christ? Discuss

- Jesus will help me grow (Matthew 14:30-31)

Do you believe that trials teach you to trust Jesus more? Discuss

- Jesus will see me through because He always completes what He starts (Matthew 14:32 and Hebrews 12:2)

In Closing

Today Jesus still calls ordinary people to follow Him.

With hand outstretched He tells us not to be afraid because His presence and love can be experienced in every situation.