

'SAINTS ON THE MOVE' Homegroup Notes

Week 3 - September 2016

Freedom from Failures and Resentments

Note to Homegroup Leaders

Please feel free to use these notes and suggestions flexibly. You know what will work best with your group. The most important thing is to be enabling everyone to be open to God and to receive the freedom he is wanting to give. You will find it makes more sense if you've heard the sermon from Sunday 18th September, which is on the website, www.allsaintsripley.org.uk if you haven't heard it yet. Thank you!

WELCOME

As a Starter to your discussion perhaps you could share stories of when you may have felt loss.

INTRODUCTION

Our focus this week in our series on Freedom is on finding freedom from the effects of resentments and failure in our lives as individuals and as a church, and finding fresh hope in Jesus.

WORSHIP

Spend some time focusing on God and praising him - either quietly or in words or song - whatever suits your group.

WORD - Looking at the Bible together

Context:

This parable has been called the pearl of all Jesus's parables. There is certainly no more powerful picture of a forgiving God, nor of the motivation that lay behind Jesus' ministry. In this story, the Father represents the divine mercy of our loving God. The older brother's resentment is like the attitude of the Pharisees and teachers of the law who opposed Jesus.

The story about the wealthy man and his inheritance would have been familiar to the people in Israel at the time. They understood that the elder son would receive double the share of the younger son. But the younger son's request would have been shocking in their culture, even now.

Reading: Luke 15: 11-32

Ask someone to pray and invite the holy Spirit to lead and guide you as you listen to the bible reading. Ask one or maybe two people to read the passage out, not rushing through, but taking pauses as each scene changes.

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Discussion:

- What caught your imagination as the passage was being read?
- Can you identify with any of the people in the story?
 - The Father
 - The younger son/ daughter
 - The elder brother/ son
 - The servant
- Why do you think the younger son left the family home?
- Where do you think the 'far country' is in today's culture?
- Can you identify with the sense of failure that brought the younger son back home?
- How do you explain the resentment in the heart of the elder brother?
- As the younger son left the far country carrying his failure, and the elder son cried out in resentment to his father, it was a beginning to their journey home to a new relationship with their father. How do you think of your relationship with God?
- We live in a world that compares everything. How can we live in the certainty of God's wonderful love for us, when we hear so many voices that cause us to doubt that love, even while in our own Christian community?
- Do we as individuals need to respond to God and ask for a fresh encounter with him who is already waiting to bless, to heal and restore each one of us? (This may well be a personal response for you, or you may want to find someone to pray with you when you are ready.)

Is there anything to share from Sunday and the sermon?

PRAYER

Spend some time praying for each other and for the church as we seek God's freedom through this month.

If you, or anyone you are aware of, would like to spend an hour talking and praying with either John, Rachel or Marian about anything that comes up through this September, please get in touch. Details are on the 'September - Freedom' leaflet.

*** DON'T FORGET ***

Saturday 1st October from 10am to 3pm
'Saints on the Move' Church Day Together

Sunday 2nd October at 10am - Harvest Thanksgiving
& Freedom Celebration followed by lunch together

Please encourage everyone to hand in return slips or emails for the Church Day Together. Thank you!

Revd Marian Brookes
19th September 2016