

'SAINTS ON THE MOVE' Homegroup Notes

Week 4 - September 2016

Freedom from Fear and Insecurity

Note to Homegroup Leaders

Please feel free to use these notes and suggestions flexibly. You know what will work best with your group. You will find it makes more sense if you've heard the sermon from Sunday 25th September if you haven't heard it yet, which is on the website, www.allsaintsripley.org.uk

WELCOME

Something to discuss as a group - could be lighthearted, or could be more serious - hold it carefully if so:

In the novel '1984' George Orwell wrote about Room 101 - a place where you met your worst fear or nightmare. What would be in your room 101?

And / or this question to discuss:

Are you called different names by different people or in different places? How does what you're called or the way that you're called make a difference to what you expect of how you feel?

INTRODUCTION

Our focus this week is on finding freedom from fear and insecurity as individuals and as a church through God's work in us.

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

Up to three different parts of the Bible this week - I don't suggest you read through them all!

Starter if wanted: Jonah

Remind yourselves as a group of the story of Jonah (look at the book of Jonah if needed!). Which are your favourite parts? Do you identify with Jonah or any of the other characters in the story?

Have you ever had the experience of heading in the opposite direction to God's plans due to fear and insecurity and God bringing you back? Who or what was your 'Big Fish'?

Choose 3 readers for the passage - others can look it up too or simply listen.

Reader 1 reads out the passage for everyone. Have some quiet afterwards to savour the story and look back or think back over it.

Reader 2 reads the passage again - same story, different voice. Now give members of the group a chance to speak out a word or a phrase that strikes them from the passage. It might be something you like or something you find difficult, or something that you sense God is pointing out to you. Don't explain it at this stage, just let everyone have a chance to say something if they want to without discussing each other's contributions.

Reader 3 reads the passage for a final time. Now discuss the passage and the things that struck you as a group. Try to draw out in the discussion the fears that Zaccheus may have had and how Jesus met them.

How easy or hard do we find it to be honest about our fears? What could make it hard?

Since the week when the sermon on this topic was preached we have been singing as a church the song 'No longer slaves' which includes the line, "I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God". We have added another line to the song since the church day away, so we have been singing, "We're no longer a church of fear, we are a church of God". We believe that God has done this work in us and will continue to bring us freedom from fear. What difference could this make to how we are and what we do as a church? What would those of us who are already part of the church notice, and what would people not part of the church notice?

Jesus addressed Zaccheus' unspoken fears and insecurities and transformed him. Spend some time thinking individually about how Jesus might be seeking to transform fears in you.

Is there anything else to share from listening to the sermon?

You could finish by reading Isaiah 43: 1-7 as a way of encouraging the group of the way God feels towards us.

PRAYER

Spend some time praying for each other and for the church and for freedom from fear and insecurity.

Extra question if wanted - not the main topic!

Dawn suggested in her sermon that Jonah's fear was that the people of Nineveh *would* listen to God's message through Jonah and repent, and then not be punished. Are there times when we can wish bad for certain other people or groups of people, or quietly hope they will 'get their come-uppance'? Is this ever OK?