

**Homegroup Notes**  
**Saints on the Move**  
**God's Team**

*To go with sermon preached at 9.15 service on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016*

*These are suggestions for your group – feel free to use them as flexibly as is helpful.*

## **Welcome**

Some questions to get talking around the topic:

What teams have you have been in or are you in now? Has anyone been in sports teams in the past or even at present? What sort of work or volunteering teams have you been in? Can you think of examples of teams that worked very well together? What's your favourite role in a team?

## **Worship**

Spend some time worshipping in your group and focusing on God. This could be with sung worship or CDs or whatever works. Here is an idea for worship using Psalm 100:

Have you ever been in a big stadium with everyone cheering? Maybe a football match or even a Christian conference! Think about that sort of shared joy and enthusiasm as you read Psalm 100.

Use the Psalm as a framework for prayers of praise and thanks – maybe reading it out a phrase at a time and allowing people to respond quietly or out loud in praise after each phrase is read.

## **Topic Introduction**

As a church we are continuing our 'Saints on the Move' series. In September we were thinking about freedom as individuals and a church. Now we are thinking about who we are and how we are as a church, as a way of preparing for all that God has in store for us ahead. This week we are thinking about being 'God's Team'.

## **Word**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26

The suggestions below mean the passage will be read aloud more than once with silence between, so that people can take in the message and think about it for themselves before anyone starts talking and some people's thoughts may dominate. Also it lets people's own questions and the prompting of the Spirit lead the things that will be discussed during the evening. Pray before you begin that God would open us to hear from him and to see and hear in the passage the areas which will be helpful for our discussion and discipleship. Then read as below:

Have someone read the passage out a first time, then have a minute or two of complete silence to re-read and/or think about it.

Have someone (else?) read the passage a second time, then allow people to speak out a word or a phrase from the passage which strikes them. The idea is *not* to discuss why or ask questions about the statements at this point – just let as many people as want to speak out into the silence the things that have come to mind from the passage.

Have the passage read a third time then allow people to explain why a word or phrase struck them and to ask questions and discuss the things that have been raised.

Areas that you might choose to discuss, if there is time after people have discussed what the passage raised for them:

- Does the church feel like it is a body made up of many parts? When do we work well like this? Are there times when we don't?
- How can we encourage each other to work together as a body in the church?
- What would allow people new to the church, or people who have never felt they had anything to offer, to become more active part of the body and bring their gifts or perspectives?
- There are surely some 'parts of the body' that we are missing at present because people have not yet become Christians. How can we make connections and invite people to get to know Jesus (the head of the body!) when they would be very 'different' parts of the body to those who are already in the church.
- Maybe for quiet reflection, or careful discussion: Do you sometimes feel that you are 'not part of the body', or not the 'right' part? After reading this passage can you see that you *are* part of it, even if you (or even if others) may sometimes miss that? What can you do to be more part of it, and what could others do?
- For quiet reflection: Are there times when you have thought that 'you have no need of' others because they don't have certain gifts or abilities? How can you respond to the challenge of this passage that everyone in the church is a part of the body, and be more inclusive of those who don't fit in so easily, or whose gifts and abilities are not so easy to work with?

## **Prayer**

Pray for the church – for us to work well as a body and gain from the wonderful variety we contain. Pray that we would always be ready to welcome and include people whatever their gifts and background.

Have a time of silent prayer when each person considers those who are least easy to include as 'part of the body', or who people find it hard to get along with, and asks God to help them to be more inclusive of them and more able to make loving connections.