

Homegroup Notes
Saints on the Move
All Saints United – Called to be One

To go with sermon preached at 10am service on 6th Nov 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:

When in the past have you felt most that you were doing something that was working with others towards a common cause? Did it involve everyone doing the same thing or different people doing different things? Do you find it easier to work on something with other people or on your own?

Worship

Spend some time worshipping in your group and focusing on God. This could be with sung worship or CDs or whatever works. You might use Psalm 24 which is a good Psalm for 'All Saints'

Topic Introduction

As a church we are coming to the end of our 'Saints on the Move' series this week. 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 God's call to us that we should be united. The sermon explored how we are united with God (the UP dimension), united with each other (the IN dimension) and united for mission (the OUT dimension).

Word

The readings for the sermon were Eph 4: 1-16 and John 17: 20-26. Another helpful passage is Col 3: 12-17. For this homegroup meeting I suggest you read the Ephesians passage, but feel free to leave out verses 8-10 where Paul goes on an aside that is not directly linked with his thread or our topic for this session.

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:

- Verse 1: Do you find it easy to live life with ‘the calling you have received’ in mind? How might you be kept more aware of that?
- Verse 3: Why might it require effort to keep the unity of the Spirit?
- In verse 11 Paul gives a list of some ministries in the church. Bearing in mind verse 7, think about lots more ministries – ‘official’ or not – that equip the church and build up the body of Christ.
- Verse 13: What might ‘attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ’ mean?
- The passage talks about growing together to maturity. How might we help each other as a church grow to maturity? What part can home groups play in this and in what ways can ‘mature’ home groups help those new to the church and needing to grow in spiritual maturity?
- You might want to spend some time discussing anything that was raised by the sermon.

Prayer

Pray for the church – that we would grow to maturity and be more and more United with God, United together, and United in being outward looking as we seek to bring others to a knowledge of God.

John Wigram – 6th Nov 2016