

Small Group Notes 21 May 2017. Theme: "Joy in the Holy Spirit"

Key Words: Resurrection, Joy, Holy Spirit, Truth, Love

Note: There are two alternative options for Word and Work – the usual questions or a more meditative practise "Lectio Divina".

Welcome

- What is your greatest fear?

Worship

- Share how you've noticed God at work in your own life?
- Sing or listen to a song of praise.

Word (You may follow the questions as usual or try the Lectio Divina – explained overleaf)

Read John 14:15-21. (Questions with an * below are taken from Trevor Hudson's book: "Holy Spirit Now".

1. *Write the word 'Holy Spirit' on a sheet of Newsprint. Brainstorm your immediate responses to the word. Record all these under the word 'Holy Spirit'.
2. *What are your earliest memories of God's love and grace in your life?
3. *What has been your most recent experience of God's love and grace?
4. Obeying Jesus command to "love one another as I have loved you" opens us to the Holy Spirit power (Jn. 13:34, 14:15). How have you seen this truth at work in your relationships?
5. According to 14:20 we are invited into the innermost circle of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How does that truth shape the way you live in the world?
6. Read 14:27 - how do these words speak to the fears you mentioned in the "welcome" earlier?

Works

- Commit to reflecting each evening in the week to come on the following: "Where was the Holy Spirit at work over the past day"? (Where possible share with spouses, friends or family members. The practise works very well when discussed at meal time)
- Pray for our confirmation candidates Kyra, Teneille, Nadine, Dylan, Ethan, Kaela, Samantha, Grace, Aidan and Kaylynne.
- Pray for vulnerable and abused children and the families of those whose children have been murdered.
- Read 14:27 as a benediction for the group.

Word (Lectio Divina)

John 14:15-17 or John 14:27 (Leader to decide).

A) Read the chosen passage. Listen for a word/phrase that most attracts your attention:

(Any word/phrase may be chosen. We do not need to know or explain why that word/phrase jumped out at us).

- 1) One person reads
- 2) Another person reads
- 3) Keep 1 min. silence (repeat word that jumped out quietly to yourself)
- 4) Share the word/phrase, without elaboration, defence etc.

B)Read again, this time listen for how the words touch your life today (e.g. what do you feel, or see or hear; or what memory is brought to mind).

- 5) The readers read passage again
- 6) Keep 2 min. silence
- 7) Those willing share how the verse affected them (e.g. I see..., I feel..., I sense..., I hear...)

Works

C)Read the passage again. This time listen for invitation to respond in the days ahead.

- 8) Read the verse
- 9) 2 min. silence
- 10) **Share** the invitation (God invites me...; I feel Jesus asks me...)
- 11) **Pray** for the person on your right (those uncomfortable praying aloud may pray silently and finish with an audible *Amen*). Pray particularly around the invitation to respond shared by one you are praying for.