

A/ Teaching

Bible Material – Key Points - based on Philippians 2v1-11

[Illustration: dolphin]

Follow Jesus’ Way

- Shepherd who Sacrifices self (John 10v10-18)
- Son of Man who Serves (Matthew 20v28)
- Son of God who Submits (Philippians 2v7-8) – Physically man; status of servant; legally cursed

⇒ Copy!

Obey Jesus’ Teaching

- Who is the Greatest? The least, the child, the humble (Matthew 18v1-4, Luke 9v46-48)
- Follow his example (Matthew 20v20-28)

⇒ Apply!

Exercise Freedom

- Freedom from Self-Interest & Narcissism (Romans 8v9)
- Permissible for Interest of others (1 Corinthians 10v23-24)
- Permissible for their Salvation (1 Corinthians 10v33)

⇒ Live Free!

How - Be Secure in Christ

- Where you are from (John 13v3)
- Who you are (John 13,1,3)
- What your authority is (John 13v3)
- Where everything you have is from (John 3v27-30)
- What you are (John 14v23)
- Where you are going (John 13v1,3)

⇒ Don’t seek your own security or status!

How – Attitude to Others

- Treat as Child of God (tenderness and compassion) (Philippians 2v1)
- Fellowship with temple of Holy Spirit (Philippians 2v1)
- Prioritise the main thing (Philippians 2v2-4)
- See as Potential Child of God (1 Corinthians 9v19-22)

⇒ Be Humble!

B/ Personal Reflection & Development - Materials available

Some of the following may help you reflect on these things further:

- Key Bible Passages with regards to us dealing with issues to maintain unity:
 - Philippians 2v1-15
 - Mark 10v35-45
 - Matthew 18v1-4
 - 1 Corinthians 10v23-11v1
 - Luke 9v46-48
 - John 13v1-17
- Think about:
 - What are my main priorities as a Christian with respect to:
 - Theology and doctrine?
 - Religious practice?
 - Relationship with people?
 - Are there secondary issues that I tend to over-emphasise?
 - What do I most value in my life; what about in the church?
 - Are there times when I feel an urge to have my say when being quiet will do?
 - Do my conversations tend to orientate around my world or other peoples?
 - Who will you interact with this week? In what practical ways can you seek their interests? How can you bless them?
 - How does acting in the interests of others affect: What I buy? (eg. Fairtrade?) What I do with my money? How I earn money? My use of the earth's resources? How I use my time? My use of social media? How I drive? How I spend my leisure? How I dress? How I speak? How I leave things behind me?
- There are chapters in the following books that may be of help in your journey:
 - "Challenging Lifestyle" Nicky Gumbel; "Discipleship" David Watson
- Meditate on some songs:
 - Servant King (Graham Kendrick)
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Philippians 2v5-11
- Further study:
 - This session is to study people. Get to know the people around you. Find ways to bless them.

Reflect on some of the "Small Team" and "Pair/Triplet" material before meeting.

C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins)
 - Jesus
 - In what ways does Jesus’ life match his teaching? (John 10v10-18, Matthew 20v20-28)
 - How can it be that in God’s kingdom the least and the humble are the greatest?
 - Me
 - What is S.I.N. all about? (see “Exercise Freedom”)
 - What is the freedom that Jesus brings? (Romans 8v9, Galatians 5v13)
 - Why do I not need to seek my own status or security?
 - Others
 - How can other Christians be described? What impact does this have on the way I see them? (1 Corinthians 1v2-3 – where Paul is writing to a church with lots of issues)
 - How can unbelievers be described? What impact does this have on the way I see them? (Acts 18v9-11 – also concerning Corinth where Paul is preaching the gospel)
- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - The problem
 - We tend to seek our own interests whether subtly or openly. Why is this?
 - What situations might make us more susceptible to seeking our own interests?
 - The target
 - Why is seeking the interests of others so important?
 - Developing
 - What practical steps can I take day by day to:
 - Change my thinking to prevent me thinking of my own interests?
 - Increase my interest for others?
 - Ensure I seek the interest of others in particular situation?
 - How can we help each other in this?
 - Think about the people you expect to interact with this week. How can you take more notice of their interests?
 - Does “looking for their interests” mean you always give them what they want? Why or why not?
- Pray together (20 mins)
 - Pray for humility and a proper regard for others.
 - Pray for your “list-of-5” – and for your love towards them!

D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in God (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship.
 - Do you feel that you take your own or others' interests into account the most? How do you think others feel about this? How can you help each other in this?
 - Encourage each other in dealing with these things.
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or Romans 12v9-21). (15 mins)
 - What does this passage say about love?
 - What does this passage instruct us to do? What things stop us fulfilling this passage?
 - Look at where in the passage God/Lord is referred to – how might these references help our motivation?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage and your discussion.
 - Pray Romans 15v13 over each other.
 - Pray for God to enable you to seek others' interests.
 - Pray for your "list-of-5".