



Small Group/ Reflection Notes

| 21-01-2024 | | iGather – to give & receive truth & love | |
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| Start | <input type="checkbox"/> What was a surprising truth you learnt this week? When do you experience love this week? | | |
| Discuss | <input type="checkbox"/> Does <i>truth</i> matter? How important is what we believe? Theology/ doctrine? <input type="checkbox"/> To what extent are our beliefs shaped by the Bible, Church teaching/ tradition, our personality/how we're wired, contemporary attitudes/values? <input type="checkbox"/> Should true love trump all else? | | |
| Read | <u>1 John 4:1-21</u> | Listen again | ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch |
| Explore | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.1</u> : How do you decide what and who to believe? How do we/you test/ assess what they say and do? How do you spot a <i>false</i> prophet? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.2-3</u> : How is this very <i>specific</i> ? How is it also very <i>broad</i> ? What do we unite around? Within that, what is there plenty of room/ scope for? What happens when you can't imagine the Jesus of the Gospels ['Jesus come in the flesh'] saying or doing what is being said/ done in His name? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.4-6</u> : Why/ how do 'false prophets' (or teachers) often reflect 'world values/ attitudes' (not that of Christ's)? Why is it dangerous to rely on " <i>I just feel..</i> " without Scripture? Why do we often need others to help us see/ discern truth more clearly? If we 'go it alone' what can happen to our understanding? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.7-8</u> : Why is love central to Christian faith? Are <i>truth</i> and <i>love</i> either/or or both/and? Why? What is <i>truth</i> without <i>love</i> ? What is <i>love</i> without <i>truth</i> ? What does <u>Ephesians 4:15</u> suggest? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.9-10</u> : What kind of love does God model? Everything Jesus said/ did was because 'God is Love'. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.11-12</u> : How does us living in love and faith help others to experience God? What happens when we or others don't live by the 'rule of love'? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.13-16</u> : Why do we need others to help us give/ receive love? What happens when we elevate 2 nd / 3 rd / 4 th order beliefs over '1 st order' (e.g. God is Love as revealed in Christ)? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.17-18</u> : How does love reduce the power of fear? Why is fear often the absence of love? To what extent does your understanding of 'end times' judgement fit with 'God is Love'? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.19-21</u> : Why does gathering with others ensure we maintain a healthy relationship with <i>love</i> and <i>truth</i> ? | | |
| Go further | <input type="checkbox"/> What happens when other people's truth (their understanding/ beliefs) are different to ours? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Order beliefs are <u>absolutes</u> . They are core to Christian faith. They're what <i>all</i> Christians believe, whatever tradition, denomination. | | |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Order beliefs are <u>convictions</u> . They describe what we and other Christians <i>like us</i> think important - though other denominations may think differently to us. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Order beliefs are <u>opinions</u> . Matters of difference between or within our congregations that needn't divide us. <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th Order are more like <u>questions</u> – unsettled issues we're all still wrestling with. |
|  Reflect | <input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to <i>know</i> and <i>rely</i> on the love God has for you? What's your experience of this? |
|  Do | <input type="checkbox"/> Chose to gather with others for worship. Sit together as a small group. Meet afterwards. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask God to reveal more of His truth and love in and through you to others. |
|  Pray | Say slowly and repeat multiple times: <i>Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen. Glory to the Father, and to the...</i> |
|  My questions: | |

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.