

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 5 April 2015

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: As the Father has Sent Me

Introduction: This talk focuses on John's version of the 'great commission'. Jesus passes the baton of mission to his disciples and charges them with the responsibility to enter the world in just the same way that he did. They now receive the empowerment for mission that had been promised throughout John 14-17, as he breaths on them and says 'receive the Holy Spirit'.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Reflect:

Read: John 20:19-23

Reflect:

- Think of the phrase, 'As the Father has sent me, so I now send you'. Discuss and list as many ways in which our being sent into the world is the same as Jesus' being sent (for example you might decide that we are sent with the *same message*, or that we might meet with the *same opposition*). Write this list down on a large sheet of paper so that everyone can see it.
- Now take a moment to look at the list.
 - Rank the list in terms of what group members find most exciting about being 'sent as Jesus'.
 - Now rank it again in terms of what appears most costly about being 'sent as Jesus'.
- The talk suggested that Jesus was sent for two main reasons: (1) to undo all the works of the evil one (1 John 3:8) and (2) to begin to announce the arrival of God's new kingdom in the middle of the old world that is passing away (Luke 4:18ff). Discuss how in their different work places, or other activities these two dimensions of Christian mission are being outworked through group members' daily lives.
- And he breathed on them... Ask group members to share their experience of receiving the Holy Spirit. Can anyone give examples of how their experience of God's presence through the Spirit has empowered their witness in daily life?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

Respond:

Love for God

Jesus' mission was caused by the love of God for a broken world (Jn 3:16).
What can we learn from that and what difference might it make to our week? Are there aspects of our daily 'world' that we find hard to love?
What can we do about that?

Love for one another

Jesus' mission was centred in a community of people with whom he shared life deeply (the twelve disciples). How does our experience of Christian community support our being sent as Jesus was sent?

Love for neighbour & world

In what one way would you like to progress in 'being sent as Jesus was sent'?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?