

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 7th February 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: The Voice. Person to Person

Introduction: The aim of this talk was to highlight the way in which God welcomes us to engage with his voice in conversation.

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

Read: Genesis 18: 16-33

Reflect:

- Abraham seemed to be very aware of God speaking to him (here are some examples: Genesis 12:1;7,8, 13:4;14 15:1-4; 7-9; 17:1ff; 15). He was also willing to 'answer back', or engage God in conversation.
 - Do group members think that God speaking to Abraham was an exceptional thing - or are there lessons for us about hearing God speak?
 - What can we learn from Abraham's 'conversation' with God in 18:16-33?
- In Chronicles 20:7 and James 2:23 Abraham is described as God's friend. Jesus calls his disciples friends in John 15:14.
 - How does Jesus describe the basis for friendship with him? What does this say about our own friendship with Jesus?
 - How does the notion of friendship with Jesus relate to developing a conversational relationship with him?
- One of the factors that affect our conversational relationship with God, mentioned in the talk, is our view of who God is. What images of God do group members find they use most often in relating to him (e.g. King? Jesus? Father? Etc). Discuss together the strengths and potential limitations of each image for developing a conversational relationship with God.
- JI Packer, in his book 'Knowing God' writes: *"To get to know another person, you have to commit yourself to his company and interests, and be ready to identify yourself with his concerns. Without this your relationship to him can only be superficial and flavourless"*. What implications are there here about developing a conversational relationship with God - and in what practical ways could we respond?

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

What might you want to discuss with God this week?

Love for one another

Listen to God this week. Ask for guidance about ways that you might encourage someone else in the group. Act on what God says to you.

Love for neighbour & world

Be alert for God speaking as you move about in everyday life. Talk to him about what you see, hear and sense around you. Come back next week to share any conversations you had.

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?