

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 31st January 2016

Speaker: Myrtle Lawrence

Title: The Voice. Words in the Night

Introduction: The aim of this talk was to explore the ways in which God might speak through dreams and visions.

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

Read: (Readings are suggested below)

Reflect:

Choose any from the following to bring further thought, discussion, prayer and revelation about hearing God through dreams and visions

- 'God speaks in so many ways, and has so many words for us, that we're probably unaware of the majority of them, or don't notice most of them'. Discuss this comment from Sunday's talk, and maybe specifically relate it to dreams and visions, (although not necessarily)!
- Read Acts 2:17,18 together. Pray, 'listen', and meditate over this. What is its relevance to (a) our contemporary context? (b) the individual lives of group members? (c) our life as a church at TBC?
- If one or two in the group have had dreams that they are happy to share, (not too personal), that they see as having been God dreams, let them share the dream, how they came to the conclusion it was a dream from God, how they went about interpreting it perhaps, and what happened following the dream (if anything).
- Acts 16:6-10. There's quite an interest at the moment in using dreams and dream interpretation for outreach and evangelism purposes. Read the short passage about Paul's vision and discuss in that context. In this passage he was given important information for sharing the gospel. Compare this with Peter's experience in Acts 10:9-23, where again God takes the initiative in evangelism by giving Peter a dream/vision. What might these passages say about the way God guides and leads us in evangelism and mission?
- Sometimes people are used to interpret the dreams of non-Christians, that ultimately lead them to Jesus. Two years ago Myrtle (who's writing this), spent two hours with a team, interpreting the dreams of 30 plus sixth formers in a local school, at the invitation of the head of year. This shows a real interest, and openness to understanding dreams, in relation to being encouraged by God, and

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Thornbury Baptist: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

healing by Him. The team were invited in to the school as a known and respected Christian Healing Rooms team, along with other mind, body and spirit type of events. Do people in the group recognize an openness to 'spiritual' life and activity amongst their friends and colleagues? What openings might this present for sharing Jesus?

Respond:

Love for God

What does the possibility of God's activity in our dreams tell us about his love for us?

Love for one another

How might we help one another pay attention and respond to our dreams and visions?

Love for neighbour & world

What would you say if a non-Christian friend or colleague shared a dream that you felt could have significance in their life?

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?

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