

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 6th March 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: The Voice. Words from the wise

Introduction: The aim of this talk was to establish the point that God's voice is often heard through the voice of others. The importance of developing trusted Christian friendships ('soul friends') was explained, and the possibility of joining a 'fellowship band' at TBC was highlighted as a way to shape such friendships.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review. (unfortunately, due to a technology error, this talk was not recorded).

Read: Hebrews 10:19-27 (NIV)

Reflect:

- In the reading there are five phrases starting with the words 'let us'. Once you have identified them, discuss how the two occurrences of 'let us' in verse 25 might relate to the others.
- Ask people to share specific instances (without breaking confidences) of times when the encouragement of other Christians has strengthened their faith.
- In the talk David talked about three 'levels' of meeting together: the Sunday *congregation*, the *small group* and the close friendship of the '*fellowship band*' (3 or 4 people meeting monthly to support one another's growth as disciples).
 - In what way does each sort of meeting offer unique support to Christian living?
 - How does each form of meeting enable people to hear the voice of God?
 - Which of the three forms of meeting does each person feel most drawn to at this present time, and why?
- It is clear that finding reasons not to make time to meet with other Christians is not a new phenomena (25!)
 - Why might people lose the habit of meeting with other Christians today?
 - What might encourage people to prioritise the habit?
- In the talk, David used the phrase 'spiritual friendship'. What do people understand by that phrase? What contribution does a 'spiritual' friend make to our lives? What qualities would you look for in a spiritual friend? (do any of these verses from Proverbs provide clues: 10:21; 13:14; 17:17; 18:24; 27:6; 29:5?)
 - How do 'spiritual friends' help us hear the voice of God?

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

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

Respond:

1. Pray and thank God for friends that have enabled you to hear God's voice.
2. Pause to reflect: who could you be a spiritual friend to?
3. What has tonight's discussion had to say about how you each might grow in:
Love for God

Love for one another

Love for neighbour & world

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?