

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: January 21st 2018

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Title: Spirit of Mission: The Empowered Life

Introduction: The 'Spirit of Mission' series of talks intends to inspire us to see the importance of the work of the Spirit in our own attempts to share our faith and talk about Jesus. This talk explores the foundation of 'being born again' to

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Acts 1: 6-8

Reflect:

- When the word evangelism is mentioned how does it make you feel? Are you more comfortable with the idea of being a witness? Why might this be the case?
- Explore why witnessing and evangelism is, for some/many, difficult?
- Paul mentioned that as a result of some research that he has recently conducted at TBC he discovered that people felt sharing faith was really important but not too many people actually did it. What might be some of the consequences of living with this dissonance?
- In the reading we can see that the commission of Jesus was to be witnesses. This has a legal connotation and is basically saying to us that we are to talk about what we have seen. This is both about what we have understood about the Jesus story through the bible and what we have experience of the Jesus story (gospel) in our lives.
- Talk about how one can become more conversant with the Jesus story so that it shapes your thinking and living?
- Talk about how we might experience more of Jesus. Consider how, in the reading that the disciple gathered around Jesus. Talk about ways in which we can 'gather' around Jesus. Has anyone got some tips to share?
- Our reading reminds us that fruitful witness is the product of joining the Spirit in what he is already doing. The Spirit was given to enable the church to witness, we are called to be junior partners. So we have a part to play be not the leading part.

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 and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God – Loving One Another – Loving Neighbour & World

- How does holding to this perspective help us in sharing about Jesus with our friends/neighbours/family etc?
How might we approach talking to others about our faith knowing that God by the Spirit is already at work?

Response

Why not commit to praying for an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus or spend time praying for a friend/family member/work colleague/neighbour for an opportunity to share Jesus with them?

And finally:

As 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?

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 and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**