

Homegroup Worksheet

Easter Series - 1

Sunday 17/03/2024 – Jill Duke – On the Road to Jerusalem

Sunday 24/03/2024 – Ben Lillie – On the Road to Calvary

Leaders: Please encourage your group to look back at the Sunday service talks from Jill and Ben which are available on the church website under Sunday Messages.

Hello everyone and welcome to our series for Easter. This series uses the Sunday service talks to give space to explore and dig deeper our thoughts around Easter and its place in our daily lives as we continue to press into God's heart for us.

Opening

So, lets dig deeper into these two areas; Jesus as he journeyed to Jerusalem and then His journey to Calvary. Let us begin with some time catching up together and then transition into the study with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Week Sunday 17/03/2024 talk – On the Road to Jerusalem

Jill Duke led us to Luke 19: 28 - 44; Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem and highlighted the following:

1. Let the breath in our lungs give you praise - in worship; the very breath in our lungs is to praise Him!
2. He came as a Triumphant king - but not in the way people expected.
3. Jesus came to fulfil - he came to fulfil biblical prophesy - he comes to fulfil your journey - the plans and purposes over your life...
4. Luke 9:51; He steadfastly set his face to Jerusalem – This journey and the story in Luke show us the heart of Christ – the manifest love of Christ for us (John 10:15 – 18)
5. Symbolism of the donkey is peace, service, and humility. The young donkey not yet broken.
 - a. He can use anything in our lives if we are prepared to serve in humility – the Lord needs you.
 - b. How generous to give freely.
 - c. He longs for relationship with us...he invites all His creation.
 - d. Be childlike - humility is powerful - in humility lies strength (countercultural in this world!)
 - e. Mark 10:45; For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many.
 - f. Not building an earthly kingdom but serve a heavenly kingdom - Jesus came to live a sacrificial life...
 - g. For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain...
6. **Will you let him into your life?**
7. Luke 9:23 – 26; He is showing us the way to come.
8. Reminded of this song:

- a. Verse 1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
 - b. Chorus. This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
 - c. Verse 2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
 - d. Verse 3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
9. Though I can't see what's before me - I fix my eyes upon you Jesus
 10. What is our story? - What is our hymn?
 11. Blessed assurance - Jesus is mine - We all have a story.
 12. When we know him; when we are lost in His love - story becomes testimony.
 13. In our current culture, there seems to be a constant need to know where we are going – In heavens culture, Jesus’ culture, we learn to trust Him; that He will reveal at the right time and light our path.
 14. What has the Road to Jerusalem talk and reflections stirred in you this week?
 - a. Share and pray for each other. Pray for someone you know that the miracle of Easter would touch them.

Week Sunday 24/03/2024 talk – On the Road to Calvary

Ben Lillie led us to Matthew 27:11 - end; and highlighted the following:

1. Ben reflected that there is a danger that we arrive at Palm Sunday (this week), then we get to the resurrection (next week) and completely miss the crucifixion story and its importance for the church and each of us today. So, Ben offered this as the Easter story and encouraged us to let it soak into us while posing the question:
 - a. **What does the cross mean to you?**
2. Then, having read the passage, he invited the church to answer that question – I encourage you to listen to the responses and have included some of the reflections here – before you listen though, ask yourself; **what does the cross mean to you?**
3. Some responses...
 - a. Salvation...deliverance from loss and ruin.
 - b. Freedom...set captives free.
 - c. Release us to be light in the world.

- d. Self-worth from Jesus not the world.
 - e. How much God loves me...I wish everyone could know this.
 - f. Freedom from fear.... like a duvet around me.
 - g. Sacrifice and service.
 - h. I'm never alone.... his plan is best...better than mine...
 - i. Pathway for life.
 - j. Unconditional forgiveness
 - k. Jesus is the cleansing power.
 - l. Like the Donkey - the master needs us we are the ones God wants
 - m. Jesus is our mediator before our Holy God
 - n. Perfection...he sees His creation in me not the filth of sin.
 - o. I can let go of earthly bandages and see my godly identity.
 - p. How Free this gift is.... from self it is persona free gift to us all
 - q. Why have you forsaken me...no he hasn't...no he didn't
 - r. Hope and victory.
 - s. No sin is greater than Jesus' love.
 - t. Not through the priest now...access to God new covenant...
 - u. Leveller...no comparison.
 - v. The removal of the priest...direct access; defeat of Satan....temple curtain ripped from top to bottom.
 - w. Healing
 - x. A place of surrender...I can do my bit...it's OK.
4. Ben concluded:
- a. 1664 - Samuel Crossman – My song is Love Unknown, my Saviours Love to me
 - b. 1707 - Isaac Watts – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 - c. 1995 – Martin Smith – Obsession
5. Romans 5:6-8: This cross, this place of cost, is the alter where everything changes. We have the benefit of knowing what comes next in history:

What does the cross mean to you?

Closing

If helpful remind your group that this supreme act of love changed our relationship with God for ever through Jesus Christ, the saviour of mankind. This is not a burden – it is a joyous place to be. We can be assured that He loves us.

For us, this begs a response – What am I doing with this? – presenting us the opportunity to share the story and outcome in a fallen world!

Please use this to form part of closing prayers. Please reassure people its ok if they feel any sense of trepidation in any of this – God loves us to seek him out – we are in God's hands – hallelujah! This can also be lifted back to God in prayer.

So, finish well. This might not mean a tidy finish – there may be much left unresolved – that is ok and please feed questions back to us.

It's always good to end in prayer so draw conversations to a close and let's get praying –

- Themes from this evening can be lifted in prayer.
- If excited, then let God know.
- If reassurance needed, then seek God's grace and peace in people's hearts.
- Other prayer needs in the room.

If you are on track with all of this then let the group know that next time, we will be hearing from Ben with more immediate examples of what generosity might be for us both personally and collectively as being part of the Bridge Church.

As ever, Leaders, please provide feedback from your session to us by dropping an email to:

grahambates54@gmail.com and pinktraceyj@yahoo.co.uk

How did the session go?

Significant points raised?

Areas that need further/future support /clarification? / Any training or other resourcing required?

Thanks, and Blessings

Tracey and Graham