

Bible Study for Small Groups WB. 2nd February 2025

A Community In Love With Jesus

Last week and this week we are thinking about us as a church community and the effect we have on those we come into contact with and those we live among.

Read Philippians 2:5-11 and 14

Last week Pastor Paul told us that to imitate Jesus we must.....

Put others first

Follow Jesus' example from the reading

Work out how to imitate Jesus day by day.

- How are you getting on with that?
- Have you ever made a New Year's resolution to change something in your life that you struggle with? If so, how did you get on?

It's obvious that just trying to do something that seems not to be in our nature is just too hard to sustain. The description of Jesus in Philippians is mind blowing but we are encouraged to imitate Him. SO... we need to **be it** not to **do it**. How is that going to work? I suggest there could be some steps we can take.

1. **We need to want it.** If we want to imitate Jesus as individuals and a community we have stepped onto the path.
 - Is there any part of the description of Jesus in the reading you would like to be in your life as a reflection of Him?
2. **Go deeper into worship.** You can't worship truly and deeply if you do it from a distance. We need to see Jesus for who He really is and understand, in the depth of our being, what He has done for each of us.
 - Spend a few minutes thinking of one of the following 4 comments about Jesus and how that has affected you and your life.

He humbled Himself for God and became a man.

He endured torture and became unrecognisable because He would not lie about who He is.

He took all sin onto Himself and died so that each of us would not need to suffer the consequences of our sinfulness.

He sits in beauty and glory and rules with His father and The Holy Spirit.... One merciful God.

Continue this exercise at home.

- Would you like to share anything relating to this with the rest of the group?
3. **Worship together as often as possible.** When we soak up scripture together, when we come into God's presence together, when we worship Him from the depths of our hearts together, something supernatural can happen as God moves around and into a group of people who are worshipping Him.
- Just one touch from the King changes everything.**
- Has something like this ever happened to you? Could you share it with the group to encourage them?
4. **Make our hearts available to the Holy Spirit at all times**, not just when we take time aside for Him. We need to actively practice facing towards God and telling Him that our hearts are open to His voice and His direction and keep reminding ourselves of that until it becomes a habit.

Let's remember that this is an on-going process. We will make mistakes and we will have little failures and victories along the way. As we read through the Bible, we often see God picking people up, dusting them down and setting their feet back on the right path when they co-operate with Him. It will be the same for us as it was for them.

When Moses had spent time with God His face shone with the reflection of God's glory. When a church community spends time with God together, the whole community shines with His reflected glory and people are drawn to Him.

- How could you respond to this message practically?