

w/b 22nd January 2017

ONE ANOTHER-ING:

LEAD AND BE LED BY ONE ANOTHER - THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN APPROACH

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

LAUNCH

- Can you remember the last time you were in a situation where your submission to authority was tested? What were the different options regarding how you responded?
- Which were good and which were bad? Why?

DISCOVERY

- What are the responsibilities of leadership contained within this passage?
- What are the responsibilities of following leaders as contained within this passage?

UNDERSTANDING

- Sometimes our past experiences both good and bad can cause us to have a fixed attitude to authority. Remember how we can be like Citizen Smith (the revolutionary), Catherine Tate (am I bothered) or Peter Sellers (the union rep - me and my members). How has your experience of leadership in the past shaped your attitude towards leadership in the present?
- How do we avoid viewing our leaders as either angelic or demonic and how does this scripture help?
- Give some theoretical examples of
 - a) How the unruly may need to be admonished in the church
 - b) The fainthearted may need to be encouraged
 - c) The weak may need to be helped
- Why is patience such a key ingredient in doing all of these things? In what sort of scenarios do you find yourself losing patience and what can you do about it?
- What are some of the really subtle ways in our culture that we can repay evil for evil? How do we go about avoiding this?
- 'Praying without ceasing' seems like a ridiculously impossible request. But how might God be encouraging you to weave more prayer into the everyday routine of life?

APPLICATION

- How can you encourage someone lacking in courage this week?
- How can you help someone in trouble this week?