

Home Group study: week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **Psalm 16**

Do we have things in our lives that are really important to us: other than God and family?  
Can you describe a time when you've gone to ridiculous lengths in pursuit of something that's important in your life?

### **Read: Psalm 16**

Can anyone in the group relate a time when they've sought God for safety? How did it work out?

Can we honestly say "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." (v2)?

In what ways can we 'suffer more and more' if we run after other gods?

David is clearly very contented with his lot in God. How is this demonstrated in vv5-8?  
Do we enjoy a similar contentment?

Do verses 9-11 remind us of the Easter story at all? In what ways?

### **Understanding**

On Sunday we looked at how we can inadvertently (or deliberately, even) make idols for ourselves. We are unlikely to make a golden calf like the Israelite did in Exodus 32. Have a look at Exodus 32 v35. What does that tell us about the way we create idols? What sort of things can we turn into idols? Does this verse suggest that idolatrous objects are, in themselves, meaningless: or do they still have some sort of power that we need to avoid? And what does it tell us about things that in themselves seem totally harmless?

### **Application**

Social media was singled out on Sunday as something that could become an idol: is that a fair assessment? Do we need to be cautious of how we use it? What other things could become idols to us? How can we guard against that? How might we judge whether something is becoming idolatrous to us?

This time is an ideal time to try to grow closer to God. How might we do that? Why is it particularly important to try to prevent idolatry from creeping into our lives at this time?

What do vv5-8 have to say about following the true God rather than an idol? Are these verses helpful in avoiding idols? And what do vv9-11 have to say about the benefits of following the one true God?

Think back to last week's study on Tim's Easter Sunday sermon, and the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. How will God react to us if we realise we haven't been wholehearted in following him but want to do something to redress that? Let's spend a little time confessing (if we need to) and then recommitting ourselves to following Christ Jesus wholeheartedly.