



Love God



Love One Another



Do Mission Together

Home Group study: week beginning 19th June 2022

THEME: FATHERS' DAY & A PUZZLING VERSE

PASSAGE: JOHN 20:1-23

ICEBREAKER

The Bible has puzzling passages. Sometimes they're just plain hard to understand. Sometimes they seem OK, but there's something about them that's puzzling and leaves you saying "What!?" Ask people to say some they've come across recently. Chat about them a bit.

DISCOVERY

Read John 20:1-23. Then read vs10-23 again, these are the ones we're going to concentrate on.

What was the purpose of Jesus' visit to the disciples in the locked upper room that night? You could talk about:

- to reassure them that it was all OK, and what he'd said would happen was going to - to restore peace to his anxious, doubting followers.
- to impart the Spirit to them.

But what about v23 - 'forgiveness of sins'? This is one of those 'what?' verses.

DISCUSSION

Have a chat about what it might mean.

We are called to forgive others, but only God can forgive sin, surely? So what does it mean?

People who were at Jubilee on Sunday will hopefully recall the idea offered by the NIV Study Bible that we are involved in people's salvation when we speak about Jesus to them, and if they accept him, they can be forgiven for their sins. And to that extent, we are instrumental in the forgiveness of their sins, almost to the point of leading them to forgiveness. There doesn't seem to be any other explanation.

Provoke people with the thought that others' salvation depends on people like us. If we don't step out, they are destined for eternity of ... what? Discuss.

Challenge each other with the responsibility we have, and the reasons we don't do more. Jesus breathed on the disciples to receive the Spirit and then said, it seems, that people's eternal destinies were now in their hands. Pray for each other to receive a fresh measure of the Spirit and a greater passion to reach others with the Good News.

FURTHER DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

It was Fathers' Day on Sunday. We talked about the role of fathers and spiritual fathers - those who are involved in mentoring others or caring for wider family etc.

Look at the 'instructions for Christian Households' in Colossians 3:18-21. Fathers are called to love and not be harsh with their wives. And they are called to treat their children in a way they doesn't embitter them. Some translations say 'exasperate' them. Talk about these, and pray about them, for each other.

In the spiritual realm fathers have a key responsibility as 'gatekeepers' - protecting against the dark forces in the spiritual realm, in prayer. Canaan bookshop sells flyers with words from Derek Prince from 'A Proclamation for Husbands and Fathers' and 'A Proclamation for Mothers and Wives', these are also handy to keep in your Bible.