

Lifegroup Notes

Look Up!

Sunday 9th July 2017

Welcome –How easily are you distracted and put off what you are focusing on? Can you think of any examples?

This week the notes are based on Jayne's talk at Encounter (4th July) where she encouraged us to look up, even when circumstances draw our attention away from God. It was such an important word that we wanted to give opportunity for discussion in life groups. The bible story is from Isaiah C6 when Isaiah received his call and vision from God after encountering God in bewildering circumstances.

Word - This week we are thinking about how we keep our perspective when things don't work out the way we expected

Read Isaiah 6 v.1-4

- Isaiah had a massive encounter with God at a time when his world was shaken by the premature departure of the king from the throne. (Uzziah died prematurely because he disobeyed God.) Isaiah's world was completely changed by this event, but at that time he had a vision of God on the throne that gave him his calling.
- Can you think of a time when something happened that significantly changed or impacted your world? Where did your focus and thoughts go at this time?
- Isaiah praises God in spite of his circumstances and has this amazing vision of God at this time –what happened in your relationship with God at that time?

Read Isaiah 6 v 5-8

- We often think of the coal touching Isaiah's lips as a way of cleansing from sin but because Isaiah was a prophet, his "lips" or his speech was his strength. We can often depend on God when we know we are weak, but how do we relate to God in areas of our strength?
- Do you find you still trust God with your gifts and talents, when you feel strong?
- Read the following extract: "Before we were born God considered us. Before we needed to be redeemed. God began to plan our existence – the gifts and talents He would bestow on us. God never changed His mind regarding anyone He created on earth. He still releases the abilities he had planned for each of us, because it is part of His plan and nature to create us in His image. (Genesis 1:26) (Bolz 2015)
- Can you think of an area of your life that you feel strong in, but you may have lost perspective on how God wants to develop this gift and talent ? How may God want to develop that strength in your life?
- Are there current circumstances in our lives that have confused us, disappointed us and we have lost our focus on God? Do we need a fresh encounter with God to regain perspective from the place of His sovereignty and peace?
- Are there areas of strength that God may want to give us a fresh vision for in our lives?
- Finish by praying for each other, does anyone need to "look up" and refocus on God right now?

Pray for people who don't yet know God .

Then pray for our community, people you know who don't yet know God. Name the people who you as individuals / group are praying for, and ask God to reveal what could the next step be in their journeys to faith.