



Looking Inwards (15 mins)
Caring For Each Other

Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an opportunity to share, not something you have to do, however, 'It's the sharing that enables the caring!') for:

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?



Looking Outwards (15 mins)
Concern For Others

Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours or church, which you would like to share (please be sure not pass on anything that is confidential or which you think the person concerned would not wish to be shared) for:

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?

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A Season Of Celebration
HG143 Humility In Service

Philippians 2:1-11

Home Group Study Notes

28 May 2017 - Revd Colin Baldwin



PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION BEFORE THE MEETING!

Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group with you, along with any previous notes and other resources which might be helpful for your discussions.



Welcome (10 mins)
Ice Breaker

As we welcome back former Curate, Revd Colin Baldwin to Emmanuel, what memories do you have of Colin's ministry amongst us? If you weren't a member of Emmanuel during that time, what have you picked up from others?



Looking Upwards (10 mins)
Worship

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...



Looking Upwards (40 mins) *Bible Study*

Read the text for this study, and any references given, then answer the following questions. You may find it helpful to listen to the sermon and/or read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, your answers with your Home Group and, remember, these questions are only a guide to start your discussions.

Some notes of reference

- Context - see Acts 16:1 the beginnings of a church in Philippi; meeting Lydia.
- Paul writes (from prison) of his deep affection of the church in Philippi
- Philippi - an important town; trade route, gold mining, purple cloth is an expensive commodity; Roman colony; first place in Europe for a church to be formed
- Paul is joyous, unlike in other writings
- Reading between the lines, there are problems in the growing church
- Paul recognises their gifts and faith in Jesus, perhaps they were showing off or controlling or manipulative, were there rivalries between people or groups of people and some who were conceited?
- Paul therefore adds humility to the mix in their spiritual lives to complete his joy
- 'love' (ahavah' [Hebrew] - ref. Orthodox Jewish Bible) means a strong commitment in this context
- put others' interests before ourselves; living in complete dependence upon the Lord
- An attitude of humility (Canavah/) echoes that of Jesus, who emptied himself of divinity, thus enabled reality of salvation/reconciliation with God the Father.
- Humility is the key that will bring humanity to Jesus, where everyone acknowledges Jesus as Lord.
- We have come so far in our walk of faith; are we ready to add more humility? Really?

Questions for further reflection

1. What makes a good church?
2. Paul writes (from prison) of his deep affection of the church in Philippi (1:7) - what are the aspects of life at Emmanuel (Deanery, Diocese, Church of England) that cause us to love this fellowship? List and reflect on some of the areas identified.
3. Can we identify the evidence of encouragement and comfort/support, love (ahavah - deep committed friendship), participation in the Spirit, affection and sympathy/compassion in our home group/church?
4. Where did humility come in your list of qualities in your answer to question 1? And How can we work towards being 'completely dependent upon the Lord'?
5. Why is humility so highly rated by Paul (as well as other places in scripture: Romans 12:3, 15:17-18, 1 Cor. 3:3-7, 1 Peter 3:4, 5:5, various Psalms, for instance)?
6. Who is it in our fellowship that we have a problem with? Can we go deep? empty ourselves, be humble, put them before ourselves?
7. Assuming that we share the qualities Paul identifies (referred to in question 2) focus upon one member of the group in turn and pray for them asking God to bring healing (if and where necessary) and to speak prophetically into their lives.