

House Group Notes

21st February 2017



Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 3:

Spirit-Led Humility

Briefly remind the group that we are looking at Ichthus' values, characteristics & distinctives (what makes us unique) in house group for the next couple of months. Remind people that this group of three Ichthus values are: 1) love (which we did last time), 2) Spirit-led humility and 3) an evangelistic heart. This is a reminder of Ichthus' statement about these three values:

LOVE, SPIRIT-LED HUMILITY, EVANGELISTIC HEART.

Therefore we believe that the values by which the movement exists and grows are firstly love, which is the first definition of God (1 John 4:8,9,11), then humility which gives room for the Holy Spirit to guide the church (Luke 4:1) and thirdly evangelistic hearts like Christ's who came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Whether we think we have an evangelistic ministry or not we are all witnesses to His grace and power.

This week we will be focusing on: Spirit-led humility

What does "Spirit-led" mean?

"Spirit-led" refers to the Holy Spirit leading us in our decisions. We believe that the Lord can speak to us to give guidance through the Bible, through prayer, and through each other by inspiring us with ideas or solutions. We believe that we can recognise how the Holy Spirit is leading us because there should always be a peace that comes with it (see James 3:17), and it is confirmed by a corporate sense of agreement with the decision or stance (see Acts 15:28; Acts 16:6-8 – here they obey the Holy Spirit, so they must have all agreed).

What is "humility"?

Humility is the quality of being humble and modest, and having a low view of your own importance. READ Philippians 2:3 and discuss!

Why do "Spirit-led" and "humility" go together?

Discuss: What is the opposite of being led by the Spirit? What is the opposite of humility?

READ Galatians 5:16-26. What do these verses say about the opposite of being led by the Spirit?

Look at v19-21 for a description of what can happen when we are not led by the Spirit. Are any of these things humble?

We don't want these things in the church!

Look at v22-24, these qualities are produced by the Holy Spirit, like fruit on a tree. Are any of these things connected with humility?

Look at v25-26 What's the conclusion? Being Spirit-led and being humble ALWAYS go together.

How does Jesus exemplify Spirit-led humility?

Throughout the book of John, Jesus says many times that He does things not from His own initiative, but because He is led by the rest of the Godhead (thinking back to the Trinity! They submit to each other and are led by each other in humility). Jesus makes it clear that He doesn't just go with His own opinion, He is led by the Holy Spirit.

READ Luke 4:1-2 Jesus is led into the wilderness and into temptation! This seems very strange, and Jesus is left hungry. Did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus somewhere wrongly? Or somewhere dangerous?

READ Luke 4:1-14 for the full story.

Look at v13-14 Discuss: What was the outcome? (The devil gave up and Jesus was still full of the Holy Spirit, i.e. He had not been abandoned by the Holy Spirit).

Look at v3-12 Discuss: How did the Holy Spirit guide Jesus?

(Through the Bible, and in v9-12 through discernment to recognise which scripture applied!)

Discuss: How did Jesus show humility?

(He didn't give in to His own flesh (v3-4), or the flattery of the devil (v6-8)).

Look at v9-12. Jesus held on to what He knew to be true (that He is the Son of God) and was confident enough about it to use it as a challenge. Discuss: How can confidence and humility work together?

In the flow or leading of the Holy Spirit!!

True humility does not mean that you ALWAYS give in to someone else's preference or opinion. Having "Spirit-led humility" as one of our core values means that we all want to listen to the Holy Spirit for Him to lead us, and when we disagree, that the Holy Spirit helps us to see what is the right way forward and to help us to submit to one another through Him.

This is so different from the world isn't it! And it can be HARD.

Pray together for us:

- To act with humility and grow in the fruit of the Spirit
- To be able to recognise when/where/how the Holy Spirit is leading us
- For courage to follow the Holy Spirit even when it seems challenging!
- To learn to trust that the Holy Spirit will always continue to lead us as long as we listen
- Anything that you need particular guidance for