

# House Group Notes

28<sup>th</sup> February 2017



## Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 4:

### An Evangelistic Heart

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 the current group of three Ichthus values are: 1) love 2) Spirit-led humility (that we did last week) and 3) an evangelistic heart. Read again 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: An Evangelistic Heart

We spent some time looking at evangelism recently when we looked at "Shining Out" as a follow-up to our verse for the year at the weekend away. Remember:

- Shining Out Part 1 - The four "Ps" of evangelism:
  - Presence – People become aware of the fact we exist and that we know and love Jesus. They know what we stand for, and that we are different.
  - Power – Praying for people and seeing miracles, healings and words of knowledge released so that people see that God is alive and active today, and then people have to take notice.
  - Prophetic – This is when we make an impact on the spiritual realm and can often result in hostility from people who are there.
  - Personal – The one-to-one conversations that we have with people, often engaging with people's questions or misconceptions.
- Shining Out Part 2 - The example of Mr Genor who for years faithfully gave out 10 Jesus tracts a day and impacted tens of thousands of people for Jesus. However, he didn't find this out until just before he died.
- Shining Out Part 3 - We looked at a number of questions or case studies about evangelism.

#### **What does "Evangelistic" mean?**

Evangelistic comes from the Greek word euangelion (εὐαγγέλιον), which literally means "good news" or "glad tidings". It is the same word used for "gospel", as in the gospel of Mark, etc. So the gospel of Mark is actually the "good news" of Mark and some bible translations will say this instead of gospel. Bearing this in mind, you can define being evangelistic as "to be a good news bringer".

### **Discuss the following questions:**

- What good news do we have to bring? (That Jesus came and died for us, we can be saved, we can have relationship with God and be filled by the Spirit, God himself! etc.)
- Why is this good news?
- Who is this good news for?
- Did you think it was good news when you first heard it?

### **Read: Luke 4:14-21**

Don't verses 18-19 seem like such good news to you? Jesus came to bring good news. He proclaimed that the Kingdom of Jesus was coming and that it would be a wonderful kingdom that people can choose to be a part of. He had a heart to see people who were in need restored and that's what His kingdom will achieve as all needs are met in Jesus.

### **Why do "evangelistic" and "heart" go together?**

**Discuss:** What do we mean when we say we have a "heart" for something?  
Why should we have an evangelistic heart?

An evangelistic heart is one that desires to see others receive the transforming and redeeming love of Christ come into the lives of others as they choose to follow Jesus themselves. Our salvation is the greatest gift we have ever received. Surely we should want others to know this gift of love and relationship with the Lord. Would it not be selfish to keep it to ourselves?!

### **Paul's evangelistic heart**

#### **Read: Romans 1:1-17**

Paul mentions the word "gospel" (good news) four times in this passage. In verse 15 he says he is eager to preach the good news and in verse 1 he says that he is set apart for the good news of God. From the passage, in what ways can you tell that Paul has an evangelistic heart?

### **Evangelistic hearts at the Pancake Party:**

#### **Discuss:**

- Why do we run events like the Pancake Party at Lee Green?
  1. We do it to build church life and spend time together.
  2. To bless and love our community as we are told to love our neighbours.
  3. Finally, and importantly, to provide an opportunity to show the love of Christ and share the good news of Jesus' transforming power to bring salvation.
- What should we do if we have visitors? Actively welcome them, love them and share our good news. Love one another and model church life and how to be a part of it, etc
- Can you think of anyone you can invite to come along?

Pray together for evangelistic hearts and the pancake party:

- That the wonder of Jesus' sacrificial love for us will always burn within our hearts
- That because of this, the good news of Jesus will be something that we want others to hear
- For any guests the group have invited
- That visitors will experience the love of God through us
- We will be led by the spirit to graciously welcome and tell people about Jesus