

St John's Meads – Home Groups

God Loves: the gift of Eternal Life



Review:

This month we begin a new chapter of the Mission of God series looking at the gifts that God gives to those who have put their trust and faith in Jesus and in His saving work on the cross. We begin this week by looking at the gift of life that God gives. Both life experienced as a present reality and a future hope.



Discuss:

- Forrest Gump in the film of the same name said: "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." F. Scott Peck began *The Road Less Traveled*, by writing, "Life is difficult!" How you would complete this sentence: Life is.....!
- Read John 10: 7-13. In this passage Jesus describes the "thief (who) comes only to steal and kill and destroy". What in your experience are the things that steal or inhibit the life that God wants for you or those you love? We looked at possession (the endless need for more) on Sunday but you might like to reflect on these other potential thieves: power, position, popularity or the pursuit of pleasure.
- Jesus describes the life he gives as "Abundant!" One commentator has noted: 'How grotesque and unreal are the ideas of those who think the Christian leads a life of boring inhibition, sitting out his years in the chilly twilight of monastic gloom, forbidden to do anything that everyone else wants to do, and always cowering in fear before an angry God! On the contrary, the Christian life is the happy life, free, abundant, and overflowing, adventurous and exciting beyond any other kind of existence.'
- How do you react to this observation? Does it accurately describe the perception of those who are 'not yet believers'? How closely does the description of a free, abundant adventure describe your own life of faith?
- Lastly consider and discuss how one may positively impact the other.



Pray:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, lead us by your Spirit into a place of deeper understanding of ourselves so that we can see the thieves that rob us of our joy and peace for what they are. Help us set aside these counterfeits and to live lives of abundance that speak of your presence and power in our lives to all those we come into contact with. We ask these things that our lives might bring you glory and that your Kingdom might be manifest in us. Amen