

## Home Group Discussion Questions: Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> June Self or God Sufficiency – John 15: 1-13

This study is the part of our '*Time for change and renewal*' series as we consider the place of the dependency in our spiritual lives. There are loads of questions you might consider and I don't expect you will have time to do all the questions. Read them through first and consider which ones to focus on for your group but do try and do number 1.

### Sermon outline:–

- Change is a challenge for all of us! But change is a certainty.
- Jesus emphasis to his disciples at this time of change for them is to 'Remain in him'. (Remain = continue)
- Jesus doesn't give us a 'To do list' to remain in him.
- Jesus shows us what we can 'become' by remaining in him.
- His emphasises in the fruitful Christian life are – Love, Joy, Obedience, His words, Prayer, His sacrificial death – these are ways in which we 'remain in him' individually and together.
- The message of 'continuing in Him' is the same for each of us at whatever stage of our Christian journey.

- 1) Check in – Where have you seen God's fingerprints in your life this week?
- 2) Starter – How do we cope with change in different aspects of our lives? Why do we find change difficult?

### Read John 15: 1-13

- 3) What is the setting for these verses? At what stage of Jesus life? How long before Jesus dies? What would be happening to his disciples over the next few days and weeks?
- 4) Why does that mean these verses and Jesus words here should be especially meaningful and helpful for us?
- 5) What is the illustration Jesus uses? How does he describe the disciples as part of this illustration? (v2, 3, 5-7)
- 6) What is the effect of Jesus words according to these verses. (v3, 7)
- 7) How should we understand Jesus teaching about prayer and asking for 'whatever you wish' in v7?
- 8) What is the warning in v6? How does this fit with what has just happened to Judas? (ch13). How does it apply to us today?
- 9) In v4 Jesus talks about the idea of 'remaining' or 'continuing' in him. How does this work out in practice?
- 10) Talk through these 'fruit' that Jesus mentions – (Love, Joy, Jesus words, Prayer, Obedience, Sacrifice) – where do you see these in your spiritual lives? Which are the most common, which are rarest are why?
- 11) Think about how 'bearing fruit' works out individually, with those we in our work / social activities, in our Christian groups? How can we develop our fruitfulness?
- 12) How does this message of 'continuing in Jesus' live out for people at different stages of a Christian journey or life? (You might like to consider those exploring faith, those just discovering faith, those settled in faith, those struggling in faith, those weary in faith and those who have been Christians for a long time).
- 13) What ways have you found helpful for us in 'continuing with Jesus'?

NH 10.6.23

**Finally** pray for one another in response to today's study. Where might you like God's help to remain in him? What fruit would you like to see more in your life? Pray that in together.

And pray for whatever upcoming needs are pressing, where would you love to see God move in your life?