



Small Group Notes - John 14:8-14

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introduction

Over the last two weeks, at the start of a new academic year, we have been asking questions about discipleship. As a church family we have been encouraged to place our trust in Jesus again and to commit to living for Him this autumn.

Ask members of your group to share honestly how their walk with Jesus (their discipleship) has been over the last months or year. Try to be as honest as possible.

1. Many of us doubt or struggle to trust Jesus from time to time. In what ways have doubts crept in?
2. We all find there are parts of our lives we live for ourselves and our agenda rather than Jesus' agenda. In what ways have we found ourselves doing that?
3. If you were to examine your life as a disciple of Jesus, what different words would you use to sum up the past few years?

This series is designed to help grow our trust in Jesus and show us again what life looks like if we do trust Him. We are now going to think about those two points in turn.

Part 1 - Jesus Builds our Trust

In John 14:1 Jesus tells his disciples to trust Him in the same way they trust God. First century Jews would know to trust God with their whole lives. But Philip is struggling to trust Jesus like that. **Read John 14:8-11**

4. What different things does Jesus say to help build Philip's trust?
5. Specifically, how does looking at Jesus' words and works help our trust grow? (Remember the work of God in John's gospel is to give life to others).

The way to let our trust in Jesus grow is to spend time look at Jesus and coming to know Him again in fresh ways. Jesus says look at my words, their authority and the work they do giving life. Jesus also says look at my works themselves, the life I led and the things I did. If we see Jesus afresh our confidence in Him will grow.

6. What might it feel like for you if you were able to draw closer to Jesus this autumn?
7. How might we do that practically and how might we help one another do that in our small groups?

9. How might these words set the agenda for us individually and as a church this autumn?

If we feel daunted by what Jesus has said so far, in verses 13-14 Jesus gives us a most wonderful promise.

10. What does Jesus promise in verses 13-14 mean for us? What does it not mean?

11. How might this promise also set the agenda for our lives this autumn?

Conclusion

Jesus says believe in me, with the whole of your life. And when we might doubt, Jesus says look at my words and works. Let your confidence grow, He really is God. More than that, as we trust in Him we should expect Him to use us in the power of the Spirit to do His work, giving eternal life to others. Finally, should we feel daunted by that prospect He calls us to pray, knowing He will answer our prayers.

13. Given everything we have seen this week, what different things do you now need to pray - for yourself, your small group and our church?

Spend time praying for each other in response to God's word.