

JUNE - AUGUST 2011

HOMEGROUP STUDY GUIDE

St Mark's Battersea Rise



Welcome to this Term's Guide!

This Summer we are exploring two main Biblical themes on Sundays: *Jesus in John* and *Coming Under Grace*. The following questions are an offering to help you as homegroups to take Sunday's material deeper. You'll notice that we will be starting *Coming under Grace* in August, when we invite homegroups to take a break and come to the hall for Summer Nights, I've included the questions for Romans anyway in case members of your homegroups want them for their own study.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing leadership, St Mark's Battersea Rise wouldn't be what it is without you doing what you do!

Blessings

Dave Larlee

Jesus in John

The closest of Jesus' disciples had the longest time to reflect on Jesus' life and teaching before writing his gospel. We get into John's mind as he describes the one he loved as lord of all.

Coming Under Grace

We pick up romans again with a second series, this time on Ch 5-8: the heart of the gospel. We'll be exploring questions such as these: How do i know that God accepts me? How do I overcome old habits? Will my faith survive tough times? What's my purpose?

Jesus in John

John 1:35-51

1. What 'fundamental requisites' for becoming a disciple of Jesus does John mention in this passage? Have you fulfilled them?

2. It is striking how regularly Jesus approached people from the perspective of their potential. Why is this so important?

3. Discuss Jesus' dialogue with Nathaniel. How do His words impact him and what was the result?

4. What is significant about Jesus' description of himself as 'Son of Man'.

John 2:1-12

1. In what way is Mary's request a 'helpful model of intercessory prayer'?

2. Why is Jesus' response to his mother surprising?

3. On the subject of miracles, how does the opening of the Gospel help us to accept the possibility of their having taken place?

4. How does what Jesus did at the wedding tie into the introduction of John's Gospel?

John 3:1-21

1. Why does Nicodemus seek out Jesus at night?

2. Why would what Jesus says about entry into the kingdom of God come as such a surprise to Nicodemus?

3. What does Jesus mean by being 'born of water and the Spirit'?

John 4:1-26

1. What contrasts can you find between Nicodemus and the woman of Samaria? What do these tell you about Jesus?

2. Why was it so surprising that Jesus should talk to this woman? Are there any prejudices which govern the sort of people with whom you share the gospel?

3. What can we learn about how to share our faith from Jesus' example here?

John 5:1-15

1. Why is Jesus' question, 'Do you want to get well?', such a penetrating one?

2. Are there ways in which we have to face up to the same question?

3. Why were the Pharisees so vehemently opposed to what Jesus had done?

John 6:1-16

1. Why does John draw attention to the Passover feast in verse 4? What comparisons/contrasts is he making between this miracle and the Passover?

2. Discuss the order of how things transpire in verse 11. What does this miracle have to teach us regarding the importance of Thanksgiving in our prayer life?

3. In verses 14 and 15 Jesus receives recognition for what he has done. Why does he withdraw from the crowd? Discuss the temptation and trappings of fame and popularity as opposed to significance and influence for the kingdom of God.

Coming Under Grace

Romans 5:1-11

1. What 'six bold assertions' are true of all who God has justified? What does each one of them mean to you?
2. What do you hope for in the future? Does it include what Paul has in mind here?
3. What 'important lessons' does verse 5 teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian?

Romans 5:12-21

4. What difference does Paul draw out between Adam and Christ?
5. What parallels does Paul draw out between the effects of Adam and Christ?

'The Integration of the historical ministry of God's Son (on the cross) with the contemporary ministry of his Spirit (in our hearts) is one of the most wholesome and satisfying features of the gospel'

Romans 6:1-23

1. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not only historical facts and significant doctrines, but also personal experiences. In what way is this true for you?
2. What is the relationship between our freedom from the tyranny of sin on the one hand and the crucifixion of Jesus on the other?
3. What does it mean for you to 'live with' Christ?
4. What is the major secret of 'holy living'? Have you discovered it?
5. In verses 15-23 Paul deals again with the question whether grace encourages sin. What 'two significant shifts of emphasis' are there compared with his answer in verses 1-14?
6. What contrasts does Paul draw out between slavery to sin and slavery to righteousness?

Our heavenly Father says to us every day: "My dear child, you must always remember who you are".

**Looking forward to seeing you
for the Pastoral Leaders BBQ
on July 4th, 2011
@ 7pm
in the Durie Hall**

