

Group Notes **2nd October - Harvest**

Ice Breaker

Did you ever cry out 'It's not fair' when you were little, share with the group the silliness thing you've ever thought wasn't fair.

Word

Read Matthew 9:35-37

Word Discussion 1

In this piece of the story Matthew finishes his collection of miracle stories by saying that Jesus went through all the towns and villages teaching, Jesus is moved by their situation. Jesus uses the phrase that they are like sheep without a shepherd. As the leaders of society are not taking a strong lead, the people are harassed and helpless.

Word Questions 1

- Look up the following bible passages, Ex12:1-4, 29:35-42, Isa 40:10-11, Ps 23, Ezek 37:24 discuss the implication of a flock of sheep being without a shepherd
- What similarities can you draw between the society described by Jesus and today's society?
- Jesus has compassion for the situation and is moved to do something about it. In addition to compassion what other emotion(s) or action(s) are needed to heal a flock without a shepherd?

Word Discussion 2

Jesus tells his disciples that the harvest is plentiful but that the workers are few. He is making sure that his followers are under no illusion about the size of the task in front of them. Spreading the truth about him will take many of them to do not just the chosen 12 disciples.

Word Questions 2

- We are all part of the body of the church, how closely can you identify with the proposition that you are a worker for the church? Expand on your answer with the group
- When did you first hear about Jesus, who told you, what did they say? If you feel comfortable share this with the group
- Look up Luke 10:1-4. Discuss your reactions to being challenged to be lamb amongst wolves

Word Discussion 3

We've already discussed compassion, but Jesus would have seen so many things that could have hardened his heart, but he continually goes to the crowds to minister to them. We too see so many things that its possible to become immune to needs all around us, we must allow our hearts to feel deeply, but with compassion should come action. Caring for the physical, emotional and psychological needs of an individual is paramount to us spreading the news of the gospel.

Word Questions 3

- There are many appeals at the moment, we see them on TV, at the cinema and hear them on the radio, how can we discern which one we pour our compassion into?
- Is it possible to become immune to suffering?
- If so how can we avoid it becoming immune?
- If we were all productive workers for God, what would our church look like, St Matthew's, in Walsall, in the UK, in the world?

Worship Ideas

While some quiet music is playing spend some time in silence thinking through the questions raised tonight. Listen out for what God might be saying to you; take note of your emotions, allow yourself to be carried away with the music and your thoughts. Have a time of open prayer, where the whole group pray out loud.

Witness

Challenge yourself to tell 5 people this week about Jesus.