

For your thoughts

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Journeying Together

September & October
2017



During the series "Journeying Together" all of us who gather together to worship and listen to God speaking to us, will be given a handout on which we can, if we wish, write down our thoughts and prayers. We can take it home with us so that we can give the topic that has been preached on, some more thought during the week. In this way we shall all become involved. Please speak to Jonathan Mobey, Pam Rolls, Vicky Johnston, or Jean & Peter Barton if you wish to know more.



Week 2

The Feeding of the 5,000

Thinking about Loving – Love shown by coming alongside

Memory Verse

'so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.' 1 Corinthians 12:25

In the space below or on the back of this leaflet, please feel free to make notes during the sermon, if that would be helpful. Here are some points made in the sermon.

1. God comes alongside us and often He does this through the tangible presence of another human. Having brought someone alongside us in hard times, God brings us alongside someone else. We then become His tangible presence in someone else's life.

2. The writer to the Hebrews (chapter 10 verses 19-25) calls us to set and maintain a culture where we come alongside one another and encourage one another. This makes our church community authentic because we are sharing God's love.

3. In Mark 6: 31-44 we see Jesus' disciples lacking care and compassion for the crowd. In contrast Jesus was moved with compassion for them.

Lessons we can learn from Jesus' approach:

♡ He accepted the crowd as they were;

♡ He showed that they were worth his time and care;

♡ He reached out to them in their need.

4. In order to see Christ's miracle hands at work, we need to embrace even more fully a culture in which his miracles can happen, the culture of love that comes alongside.

To think and pray about at home:

The disciples apparently had an uncaring initial attitude faced towards the end of a busy day with the task of feeding the 5,000. Why was it that they felt like that and what was it that changed everything for them? What might all this be saying to us?

At the heart of a caring community is compassion; what are your thoughts on this?

Have you ever thought that a congregation might be suffering from 'compassion deficit disorder'?

What would be the symptoms of this condition?

Would you say that in any sense our two congregations suffer from it? And if so, what can and should we do about it ?

What do you think of the view that it is the primary mission of the Church to reach out to people who are not yet Christians?

How are we establishing a culture of care in our churches, as well as reaching out into the community? See 1 John 4:7—16, in 'The Message'.

Is there anything that you feel could and should be done in our two congregations to provide more opportunity for coming alongside others?

If you have any suggestions on what practical steps might be taken to help this to happen please have a word with Pam Rolls, or leave a note for her.