

## Life Group – Week 4

### The renewal of our minds – *the study of Scripture*

**Leader:** Welcome to this Life Group (Spiritual Formation Group). May the Holy Spirit bless us and may we find fellowship and encouragement during this time together. We come together with one aim – to become better disciples of Jesus Christ. We do this by encouraging one another to keep Jesus' word which is what we naturally do when we love him (John 14:23-24). Through the grace of mutual accountability, we strive to inspire one another to love and good works. Everything said here is in confidence. We are safe and free to share honestly. This is how we help each other.

*A few moments for silent prayer*

**Together:** In utter dependence upon Jesus Christ as my ever-living Saviour, Teacher, Lord and Friend, I will seek continual renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit and daily transformation into the likeness of Christ.

**In turn** read through the *Common Disciplines* which are statements of intention based on the six traditions (contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical, incarnational).

- By God's grace, I will set aside time regularly for prayer, meditation and spiritual reading and will seek to practise the presence of God.
- By God's grace, I will strive mightily against sin and will do deeds of love and mercy.
- By God's grace, I will welcome the Holy Spirit, exercise His gifts and nurture His fruit. I will live in the joy and power of the Spirit.
- By God's grace, I will endeavour to serve others everywhere I can and will work for justice in human relationships and social structures.
- By God's grace, I will share my faith with others as God leads and will study the scriptures regularly.
- By God's grace, I will joyfully seek to show forth the presence of God in all that I am, in all that I do and in all that I say.

***Scripture reading, reflection and sharing -***

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Share ways in which your life has been changed by the truths you have discovered in the Scriptures.

## Questions of the heart

*Beginning with the leader, each member is encouraged to share from their experiences in the past week. Select from the following questions to help focus the discussion.*

- **In what ways has God made his presence known to you?** What experiences of prayer and meditation has God given you this last week? What difficulties or frustrations have you encountered?
- **What opportunities has God given you to serve others?** How did you respond? Have you encountered any injustice to, or oppression of, others? Have you been able to work for justice and shalom?
- **In what ways have you been able to manifest the presence of God through your daily work?** How has God fed and strengthened you through the ministry of word and sacrament?

## Thinking about study

What resources have you found helpful in studying the Bible?

What would help you be more consistent in your exposure to Scripture?

What tools do you have to help you understand the text you are reading? Are they adequate?

How much of your teaching comes to you second-hand from teachers and preachers?

Outside the Bible, which book has had the most profound impact upon your own life? Why?

## Looking ahead

Encourage each other to be more disciplined in the study of Scripture and to set some targets. Encourage each other to be reading a challenging Christian book as well as the Bible. Consider memorising one or more verses before you next meet.

## Ending

Continue to pray each day for each member of the group, maybe at an agreed time in the day.

**Leader:** *Please remember that what we have heard here was spoken in confidence and should remain so. May the love, peace and power of God be with us during this week.*