

IN CHRIST

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Confident in Christ (Talk given by Richard Saint on 01/09/19)

1. What did you find most helpful / encouraging?
2. What did you find most difficult / challenging?
3. How confident in Christ do you feel today?
4. How might being confident in Christ affect your daily life?
5. If God has begun a good work in you, how might this internal change be reflected externally in your life?
6. When life is tough, difficult, or your plans are not working out, how easy do you find it to remain confident that God is in control?
 - a. What might help you to remain confident in all circumstances or help someone else who is going through tough times?

2. Living in Christ (Talk given by Keith Brindle on 08/09/19)

The first part of Keith's talk focussed on Paul's sharing of the gospel whilst in prison and during the 2nd part he focussed on verse 21, 'For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.'

1. What did you find most helpful / encouraging?
2. What did you find most difficult / challenging?
3. Paul shared the gospel in the most unlikely of circumstances to the most unlikely of people. How do we share the gospel today? (How do we not share the gospel today?)
4. How can we encourage one another to share the gospel? (Does anyone have a testimony of being a part of someone's journey to faith?)
5. At some point, if we want others to know God's love for them, we need to talk about Jesus. The best way to do so is by telling your own story. Sharing what Jesus means to you. What would be essential to your story? Could you share some of your story now?
6. Keith focussed much of his talk on verse 21 'For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.' What do you live for? (money, status, happiness, good health, etc). How do we make these (often good) things not compete with, but come under and be a part of what it means to live in and for Christ?
7. Keith shared what his wife Anna and her family are currently going through presently. There are many others in our church family who are going through tougher times. The Christian faith doesn't shield us from the realities of life. Someone once wrote that 'The way to know joy in every circumstance is to know Christ in every circumstance.' For some of us who are going through difficult stuff 'The way to getting through every circumstance is to know Christ in every circumstance' may be closer to the truth. How do we, in those difficult circumstances know that Christ is with us?
8. Can we share some of the difficult stuff we are going through and pray for one another.

3. One in Christ. Part 1. (Talk given by Mike Wilmott on 15/09/19)

1. What did you find most helpful / encouraging?

2. What did you find most difficult / challenging?
3. In his letters, Paul often urges the churches to be united/like-minded. Why does he see it as so important, and what are the benefits of working together?
4. We won't always agree on everything - How should we as Christians handle conflicting views?
5. Paul describes the Philippians as 'citizens of heaven' (v27, also 3.20). Do you think of yourself as 'a citizen of heaven'? What does it mean to be such a citizen? (Might be helpful here to think of the rights and privileges Roman citizens had in Philippi and compare/contrast those with the ones enjoyed (?) by citizens of heaven.)
6. Paul mentions love, fellowship, compassion and humility – how can we make these an integral part of our lives?
7. Does 'citizenship of heaven' guarantee an earthly life of peace and prosperity?
8. How can we better reflect the grace and love of Jesus?
9. What may be stopping you having a 'bigger heart' for Christ?
10. One day, a visitor arrived at a church service. At the end, he approached the Minister and asked 'What kind of church are you? The vicar turned to one of his church members and asked "Our visitor wants to know what kind of church we are'. The member paused to think and then said, 'Open to God'. If someone walked into St James and asked the same question, what would you say?