**Belfrey Group Leaders Notes week beginning 9th Sept 2019**

*Church on Fire: Evangelism*

**Welcome:**

*Begin by getting into pairs and telling each other who helped you the most to put your faith in Jesus.*

**Worship:**

*Sing some songs about Jesus, and evangelism, eg:*

* *Worthy of every song we could ever sing (Build my life)*
* *Jesus, Jesus holy and anointed one*
* *I want to see Jesus lifted high*
* *For the sake of the world (burn like a fire in me)*

**Word:**

*Read Acts 5:17-end*

*The Acts of the Apostles describes churches on fire, where people were burning with passionate love for Christ. This passage has much to tell us about the evangelism undertaken by such a church. Evangelism is telling people the good news about Jesus.*

*1. Telling people (v20)*

*The apostles are imprisoned because of the spread of the Christian faith. An angel comes at night and sets them free. Read v20 and talk about what they were commanded to do. How would you feel if an angel appeared to you like this, and gave you this command?*

*2. Talking Jesus (vv29-32)*

*Read these verses. Who is the central character they talk about? Matthew said in his sermon on Sunday that there are 5 wonderful things about Jesus that churches on fire often share: his life, death, resurrection, ascension and pouring out of the Holy Spirit. How many of these 5 things about Jesus are included on this occasion, as they talk about Jesus?*

*3. Non-stop Good News (vv40-42)*

*If you were flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus, what would you do? What did they do? What do you make of their attitude (in v41)? Talk in detail about v42: How often did they tell the good news? Where did they share the good news? Who was the good news about? What do we learn from this?*

Going Deeper:

*4. The Good News is a Person*

*While the good news – the gospel – is a message, it’s more than a form of words. While it includes some amazing things that have happened, it’s more than just a set of historical events. At its heart it’s a person - Jesus. Jesus is the good news!*

1. *Ask a few people to talk about how they first became amazed and enthralled by the person of Jesus.*
2. *Ask a few others to share what they are presently appreciating about Jesus.*
3. *Talk about the quote below that Matthew shared from Heidi Baker, about Jesus. What stands out for you? Do you agree? What does this mean for us?*

*‘Imagine how hard it would be to relate to an invisible spirit or to follow God without the model of Christ. Imagine the Bible without any of His stories. Imagine the Word of God without the Gospel. Imagine the story of love without the cross. Imagine trying to understand heaven without the resurrection. It would all be so hard.*

*The truth is, we need Jesus to understand God. We need Jesus to have faith. God chose to manifest Himself fully in Jesus. Jesus is fully God, yet in a form we can fully identify with. Jesus came so we might have a perfect companion - in the image of the invisible God.'*

**Witness:**

*5. Who are you praying for, who you’d like to become a follower of Jesus?*

*6. Is there anything that you can do tomorrow and in the coming days to help them see how amazing Jesus is?*

*7. Tell someone in the group what you intend to do, so that you both become accountable to each other to do this.*

**Wind:**

*End by praying first for the person you identified in question 5, that they’d hear the good news of Jesus and soon become a believer. Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be someone who more and more tells others about Jesus.*

*End by laying hands on each other, praying for the fire of God’s love to burn in our hearts, so that we can’t help but talk about Jesus, like the apostle in Acts 5.*