

Word notes Sunday 1/5/2011 Tony Hodge
No Doubt!

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 20:19-29

What was it like for the disciples that first evening after the news of Jesus' resurrection? From John's account and also from the other Gospels we can glean three things:

1. They were nervous – the doors were locked against the Jews
2. They were not all there – lacking in unity
3. There was doubt – Thomas at least if not others from the other Gospels.

The disciples then were in a bit of disarray, worried about the continued persecutions from the Jewish authorities and prone to doubt.

Jesus visits them on these occasions and others to address these things, that:

1. They would have Peace
2. All would see
3. All would be convinced
and.....
4. They would have renewed purpose

For us, when we face times of hardship, difficulty or oppression, or are tempted to doubt, Jesus is ready to meet with us if we don't lock our doors to him to bring Peace. He will meet with us as we gather together in his name, and he is ready to forgive when we doubt. What's more he will restore our hope and vision for the calling he has for us.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What does doubt mean to you? Is it as strong as denial or just the small beginnings of unbelief?

Jude writes that we should "be merciful to those who doubt". How if at all does this apply when taking to:

1. A confirmed atheist
2. Someone curious about the faith but unconvinced
3. A Christian with doubts.

What causes Christians to doubt or have their faith shaken? What personal experience do you have of this?

What are the best practical ways to deal with our own doubt and how can we support a brother or sister in such times? What comfort can we take from the passage in John?

Pray with any who struggle with doubt, ask the Lord to meet with them as they reach out to him.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Phew – what a busy couple of weeks! Good Friday walk of witness, Easter guest service, Fun Day all opportunities to share, I hope you found ways to bring Jesus onto the scene yourselves or in support of others.

With warmer days & lighter evenings coming up perhaps this is a good season to reach out with social events, what can you do as a cell?