

Home Group Questions

Romans 5 v6-11

Matthew 5 v21-26

Anger and Reconciliation

Read Romans 5:6-11

1. How has God demonstrated his love for us? What does that mean for each one of us personally?
2. Reflect together on the importance of being reconciled to God, and the cost of that reconciliation.

Read Matthew 5:21-26

3. Consider the importance of Jesus' teaching that it's not just our actions, but our words and our thoughts, that are being judged by God.
4. Reflect on how much harder it is to control our words and our thoughts than it is to control our actions.
5. Remember the words of our prayers of confession on a Sunday morning.
At the 9am service we pray: 'We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings.'
At the 10.30am service we pray: 'Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned, in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God.'
How easy is it to pray that with words that come not just from our mouths but from our hearts?
6. What difference does praying that prayer then make to our daily living? Having been forgiven by God, how can we try and make sure that our deeds, words and thoughts are those which God expects from us?

Making it personal

7. Jesus teaches that having a right relationship with God is important, but so is having a right relationship with 'brothers and sisters'. How can we ensure that our relationships are good ones, and remain good?
8. How easy do we find it not to get angry or bitter with other people at times? What can we do to lessen our anger or bitterness?
9. What should we do if a relationship/ friendship that we have breaks down, particularly within the family of the church? How can we bring about reconciliation?
10. Reflect, perhaps in quietness, about anything we personally need to do to bring about reconciliation in a relationship that is broken, or in danger of being broken.

