

Life Group Notes

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Speaker: Blessing Makumbe

Title: A Community of the Spirit: Led by the Spirit

Passage: Romans 8:12-14

Blessing started by reminding us that 'all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God'. He asked what leads us when we are in tricky situations – what leads and guides us? Is it fear that drives us? We are not obliged to follow the sinful nature, but we can choose to follow the way of the spirit, giving up the pleasures of the 'now'.

Blessing shared a couple of stories about significant life changes, highlighting the importance of praying to God for guidance, and feeling a sense of the Spirit's leading, sometimes having to leave known comforts. And yet, he has experienced fruit as a result of following God and being led by the Spirit into new places.

Acts 8:26-30; 36-40

In this example, Philip was led by the Spirit of God to go alongside the Ethiopian eunuch, and the eunuch yielded himself to God, to the point of being baptised. What would you do in circumstances like Philip's – do you yield to the Spirit's promptings?

Blessings explained five implications:

1. Pray at all times and pray before you answer especially tricky situations (Nehemiah 2:4).
2. Remain in Christ, remain in the vine (John 15:5-8). It may look dry and challenging when being led by the Spirit, but continue to trust in him and remain in Christ.
3. Run away and think later! (Genesis 39:11-12). If faced with a clearly sinful situation, there is no need to think twice and pray before avoiding the danger!
4. Trust him even when it doesn't make sense or you don't see it (Mark 8:33). Continue to yield to the Spirit, despite what might look like loss. God is leading in a way that is greater than what we may be able to see.
5. Being led by the Spirit means being proactive from your end (Exodus 33:15-16). It may mean fasting and praying, or simply taking action.

Suggested questions:

1. Talk about a time you have felt prompted to act as a result of the Spirit's leading.
2. How can we experience the Spirit's leading as part of a believing community?
3. Have you ever wanted to give up on something you'd originally felt the Spirit's leading on? What spurred you on?
4. Generous, Real, Accepting, Courageous, Enduring, Diverse – which of the church values are you sensing the Spirit's leading on? How can you be proactive?
5. Are there any areas you need to move on when it comes to embracing diversity?
6. Pray for specific situations where you need to know God's guidance and leading.