

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Small Groups – John 13:1-17

1. Sometimes at church we talk about God's invitation to us as 'come as you are but not stay as you are'. In your own words – what does this mean? Read Colossians 1:28-29. What was Paul's goal for his ministry?
2. What things encourage you (or discourage you) to zealously pursue God's call on your life? How would you describe God's purpose for your life (Romans 8:29)?
3. What are the advantages of regularly reading the Bible and praying with a small group of Christians compared with a large group such as our Sunday services?

Read John 13:1-17 and v34-35

4. What is commanded for followers of Jesus?
5. Do you think as a church we love each other well? Why / why not?
6. Small groups provide a context where we can meet regularly and so know what is happening in our lives that we can love one another. Choose some of the following passages and reflect together on how you are going in these areas:
 - It's Exercising hospitality (1Pet 4:9)
 - Prayerfully speaking the truth to one another in love (Eph 4:15-16, 25, **5:19**)
 - Acceptance, devotion, concern & prayer for one another (**Rom 12:10**, 15:7, Gal 6:2, Jas 5:16)
 - Teaching, admonishing, exhorting, correcting, building-up and encouraging one another through mutual instruction and Christ like loving (2Tim 3:16, Rom 15:14, Col 3:16, Heb 3:12-13, 10:24-25, Jn 13:34-35)
 - Willing to confess sins to one another so that others can pray for spiritual healing (Jas 5:16, 1Pet 2:24)
 - Carrying each others burdens (Gal 6:2)
 - Meeting pastoral and practical needs as they arise (Acts 2:44-45, **1Thess 5:14-15**, Rom 12:12)
 - Spurring each other on in love and good deeds (Heb 10:24, Tit 2:8)
 - Using their gifts to serve one another (1Pet 3:7-9, Eph 4:15-16)
7. If we are to be a church of small groups, where the normal expectation is that people will participate in regular small group (bible study, prayer triplet, accountability partner) – what are the challenges to this? What changes can you make for next year to prioritise meeting with others? What will you do this week to help someone else with it?