

Being God's Family



a weekend away at Sunnyside

We had lots of excellent teaching from Adrian Chatfield during our weekend away in July and are keen that we learn from it. Here are some questions to help you think more about what Adrian said either in your small group, with friends or on your own. Don't forget to let Rebecca or Rachel know if you feel God is telling you something about our church life and how we might serve our community!

You will find videos of the talks on our website along with Adrian's notes. [Click here](#) or go to the Weekend Away page.

please note, that unless otherwise stated, the statements at the beginning of questions are a summary of what Adrian said.

Talk 1: We belong to Christ (Romans 4.7)

1. 'a person is a person because of people'. In what ways does this African saying help you understand God's intentions in creating us?
2. God began his restoration project by forming community; in the Old Testament this was Israel and in the New Testament the Church. How does this challenge us?
3. Romans 7 tells us that we are reconnected to God in Christ. We are ransomed (bought back), adopted (become children of God), created (not the creator) and given to Christ. Which of these images do you find most helpful? Which is least helpful for you?
4. There are two practical actions arising from us belonging to Christ: celebration and commitment. What might these look like for you? What might they look like for us as a church? What might they look like for our community?
5. What does it mean for us to belong to Christ as individuals and a church?

Talk 2: We belong to each other (1 Corinthians 12.26 and Romans 12.5)

1. Belonging means to have a longing for one another. What might it look like if we longed for Christ? If we longed for the Sunnyside Church family? If we longed for the whole church? If we longed for our community?
2. The Church is a sign of God's original intention. What does our community see when it looks at Sunnyside?
3. CS Lewis described friendship as a 'glimpse of heaven' (John 15.15). In what ways might our friendships at Sunnyside be attractive to those looking at us? In what ways might they make us seem exclusive rather than welcoming? In what ways might our friendships outside church give people a 'glimpse of heaven'?
4. Forgiveness is central to belonging to one another (2 Corinthians 5.18-19). In what ways is it encouraging and challenging to remember this?
5. The more we pour ourselves out, the more we have. Has this been your experience?

Talk 3: As the body of Christ we serve (Romans 12.7)

1. We are called to serve and to allow others to serve us. Why is the second so much harder for most of us? Do you think this is true when we are struggling to find people to serve?
2. We are called to serve with a spirit of humility, generosity, hospitality and risk. How does the example of Christ in Philippians 2 help us understand what this might look like?
3. We are called to serve in a spirit of humility. What does success look like for a church?
4. We are called to serve in a spirit of generosity and hospitality. In what ways are hospitality and generosity related?
5. We are called to serve in a spirit of risk. What would risky service look like for you? For Sunnyside? In our community?

Talk 4: As the body of Christ we are sent (Ephesians 4.7-8)

1. We are sent to be a community of storytellers. What stories can you tell of how God has been at work in your life?
2. How has listening to other people's stories helped you to tell your story?

3. We are called to be a place where people feel at home. How might we make people feel more at home at Sunnyside?
4. We are called to be 'leaven in the lump'. What is God doing at Sunnyside that we need to notice and get involved with? What is God doing in our community that we need to notice and get involved with?
5. We are called to be missionary in prayer because prayer transforms community. How might we be better at praying for our community?

Talk 5: Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6.19)

1. Churches are cells of radical discipleship. How might we be more radical in our discipleship as individuals and a church?
2. We are all works in progress but we are called to be holy; this begins with radical honesty about our holiness. How honest are we before God with how we are dealing with his call to be holy?
3. Holiness is closeness to God, to one another and to the ground (the communities in which we live). How might we draw closer to God, one another and the ground as individuals and as a church?
4. Worship draws us closer to God but is primarily about blessing God's heart. Do we remember this when we gather for worship? Do we remember this when we worship God through our daily lives?
5. Closeness to one another involves a deep respect which embraces and loves people as they are. Who is God asking you to draw closer to at Sunnyside? Who is he asking you to empathise with? Who is God asking you to draw closer to in our community? Who is he asking you to empathise with?

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