

CELL NOTES FOR NOV/DEC 2014/ NEW YEAR 2015

BASED ON THE BOOK ADVENT JOY BY ELIZABETH RUNDLE

Wk Beg 19th November: The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace

Welcome - Who do you consider brings light and joy into your family or community and how?

Worship - Read Isaiah 9.1-7. Play some Advent music and light candles. Thank God for Jesus' coming to bring light into our lives.

Advent God,
We meet to be inspired by your promised coming
To learn your will through people who speak out for justice
To see your power in people who bring light to others
To find your truth from people who point to your light
Be with us Immanuel, the God who comes close

Word and Witness - Have pens handy so each member can write down this list which you discuss and make as a group

- 10 friends who the cell will pray for regularly
- 9 fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5.22-24)
- 8 Consumer Temptations
- 7 "must do" things before Christmas
- 6 favourite carols
- 5 important people in your life (do this one as individuals)
- 4 titles given to the Messiah in the reading (Isaiah 9.1-7)
- 3 situations to pray for
- 2 prophecies about the God's coming kingdom (eg. From Isaiah 11.1-9)
- 1 cell social event to which you will invite the people for whom you pray this month.

The list should take no longer than 25 minutes to complete. Compare the "must dos" with the "fruit of the Spirit". End by planning the cell social event and praying for the people and situations mentioned.

Next week, bring something which, for you, personally symbolises the coming of Jesus into our world. Ask a priest to come and share communion with your group.

Week beginning 26th November: The Joy that Jesus brings

Welcome - Display the item which you have brought and explain why it symbolises for you the coming of Jesus into our world.

Word – Read John 2.1-11. Read the “Context” on page 32 of your book.

- In chapter 1 of his gospel, John names the first disciples who would have been with Jesus in Cana – look and see who they were.
- Discuss why hospitality is so important for Christians, especially at Christmas time.
- Which is the greater miracle – that Jesus turned water into wine or that Jesus, the Son of God, was present to enjoy ordinary family festivities?
- How do you think the disciples interpreted this sign?
- In this miracle, Jesus turns the situation around. It may be that this is what he is waiting to do in your life. Take time to be quiet and receive his Holy Spirit. Pray for each other's needs with the laying on of hands.

Witness – How can you witness by offering hospitality? Make final arrangements for the coming cell social and pray for those whom you are inviting. (NB Does your cell know anyone who may be on their own at Christmas – if so, what hospitality can you offer?)

Worship – Celebrate a simple communion together. Use the reflection and prayer from the Advent Joy Book – 9th Dec.

Next time: Choose a Christmas card to bring next time. Be prepared to say why you chose it – and how you feel the card shows the message of Christ's birth

Week beginning 1st December; No Notes Cell Christmas Meal - 3rd Dec details TBC

Week beginning 8th December: Music fills the air

Welcome: Show the Christmas cards you brought along. Why do you like them? How do they show the message of Jesus' birth?

Word: Pray the prayer at the top of pg 58 of Advent Joy. Read Luke 2. 1-7

- As a child, did you enjoy the story of Jesus' birth and what did it mean to you?
- How did you feel when, as a child, someone was irritated or dismissive of your excitement about Christmas?
- What thrills you about the coming of Jesus?
- What would you do if he were coming to Christmas lunch?
- When you are busy and tired, how do you hold on to Christ as the centre of Christmas?

Witness – Pray for all the celebrations of Christmas, the services and events which witness to Christ's birth. Pray for family and friends who you will spend special time with over Christmas.

Worship – Sing the song “Jesus be the centre” or sing or listen to a Christmas carol and light candles as you pray.

Week beginning 15th December: Joy to the World

Welcome – Share a high and a low of this week.

Word - Read John 1.1-14 and the context on page 59

- The Greek word “logos” comes a lot in this passage. It is usually translated “Word” but it could be translated “Idea” Try reading the passage using “Idea” instead of “Word”. What meaning does this bring out?
- Choose a verse which strikes you and share what it means to you with the group.
- Consider the similarities between Genesis 1,1 and John 1,1-2
- Jesus said “I am the Light of the World”. What does this mean to you personally?

Worship and Witness– Use the Reflection and prayer on page 84-85 Advent Joy

Week beginning 25th Dec/1st Jan- Into the New Year

Welcome – Share one of your hopes for the coming year.

Word – Read Luke 2.25-38

Anna was a great woman of prayer. How would you like to deepen your prayer life this year?

Imagine you met Simeon after Mary and Joseph had left the temple. What would you ask him?

How do we show our respect for the experience of men and women like Simeon and Anna when age has made them frail?

How can we keep “prayerfully expectant” like Simeon?

What “sword” pierced Mary's heart? Is there a sword that pierces your heart. Pray for each other.

Witness – Pray for those on your cell list – and pray for the witness of your cell in the coming year.

Worship – Put a large bowl of water in the centre of the group and give each person a stone. Carefully consider a “New Year's Resolution that you can offer to God as your intention in following him this year – an act of sacrificial worship. When you are ready, drop the stone into the water – let the ripples signify the difference that your resolution will make this year in bringing God's joy to others