

## Questions and Exercises – Week 2

### 6. John 10-12

1. Jesus' 'parable' of the sheep gate, shepherd and sheep in John 10 is not interpreted or explained in this gospel, as it apparently was not by Jesus. Why did he not 'Tell us plainly', but instead drew a rather detailed picture with words and left it at that?
2. Did anyone present at Lazarus' grave have faith that Jesus would resurrect him? To what extent was this sign the result of faith? Whose? Was there any other dynamic at work here besides faith?
3. Of the various possibilities, why do you think Jesus got angry and indignant (11.33, 38)?
4. What aspects of God's kingdom do we find it easier to believe are for 'not yet' rather than 'now'? What aspects of his kingdom do we more readily believe are for 'now'?
5. The Jewish people of the 1<sup>st</sup> century were looking for a 'messiah', albeit a political saviour as well as a spiritual leader. Are the people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century looking for a 'messiah'? Do any of the other titles or designations of Jesus presented in this gospel resonate better with our own culture?

### 7. John 13-14

6. Drawing firstly from chapter 14 and secondly from your own experiences, what does the Holy Spirit do? What difference does His presence make?
7. Jesus' dialogue with his disciples is used as a simple and effective tool for teaching fundamental truths about Jesus and his mission. What can we learn from the questions posed by (and the answers given to) Peter, Phillip, Judas and the disciple who Jesus loved?
8. How would you use Chapter 14 to explain the Trinity to someone who was struggling with the concept of a triune God?

## **8. John 15-17**

9. One book I have on prayer is titled 'If God already knows why pray'. What exactly is Jesus praying for here and why did it matter? If it was inevitable that the church would be persecuted as chapter 16 seems to suggest why do we have the prayer of chapter 17?
  
10. When we read these chapters through western cultural filters do we lose the sense of relational intimacy that is inherent in these chapters? Can westerners assimilate this kind of spirituality or do we water it down to suit our own culture? Does this explain the difference between western and third world Christianity?

## **9. John 18-21**

11. What was happening when Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him? What sort of emotions/thoughts is Peter having that shape his response? Is this a low point or a high point for Peter?
  
12. What stood out to you this time you heard the story of Jesus' death and resurrection? How do the events of that weekend explain/affect your life?

## **10. 1 John – 3 John**

13. If you go through the structure of 1 John section (point 4 in the notes), can you see similar themes from the Gospel of John? Which ones are they and where in the Gospel are they found? (Start by looking at John 1.)
  
14. 1 John 1:8-9 talks about sin and forgiveness. How does it make you feel to be free from guilt of sin?
  
15. Reading through the list of character attributes of God, can you share a story from your life where God has been one of those character attributes?