

Beacon Church — from Sunday 28 January 2018

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR CONNECT GROUPS FROM ANDY ROBINSON'S TALK

Please select a few questions to consider — do not try to cover everything in one evening. Thanks.

Closing the gap between our theology and our experience

We believe enough to want to argue with those who do not believe; but we do not always believe enough to expect what we say we believe

It is possible for both belief and unbelief to be present at the same time. We learn that from Mark 9:24.

Read Mark 6:1-6

Verses 5-6 imply a reason why Jesus could not do all he had hoped in his home town Nazareth.

- What was that reason?
- How do you feel when you realise that your own unbelief has a negative effect well beyond yourself?

Unbelief affects us in many ways:

- It breaks us off from God's plan for us (Romans 11:20)
- It stops us from fully entering the rest of God (Hebrews 3:18-19)
- It causes us to fall away in part or totally (Hebrews 3:12)
- It acts as a spiritual poison (Acts 14:2)
- It defiles the conscience (Titus 1:15)
- It can affect a whole region (Mark 6:5)
- It limits the power of God not only over my life but also over the lives of those I love (Mark 9:19)

Is unbelief affecting me? Consider where any of these are true or partly true of you

- I find myself disappointed and let down by God when he doesn't seem to work or answer my prayers as I believe he should
- When I hear of others' experience of God's presence or power my default response is cynical and I often try to analyse, minimise or disprove their claim
- Others call me critical, but I feel they are naïve and I am discerning
- I first perceive situations as 'impossible' rather than 'possible with God'
- Prayer is usually a last resort with me
- I doubt that God speaks to others as they claim, because he doesn't speak to me in that way
- I'm reluctant to receive prayer because it hasn't worked before
- I think my situation, my sins, my fears my _____ will never change
- I have a tendency to worry and I have anxiety and fear about many things
- I often control people and situations because I am afraid to let go and trust God even when I know I should

Read Mark 5:36 — Look briefly at the situation when Jesus spoke these words.

- What is the implication of Jesus telling Jairus this? It is that we have a choice whether to have fear or faith. We cannot choose our circumstances. We can choose how we respond.

Read Acts 17:11 — Here is a better response than scepticism or cynicism.

- How did the Bereans receive the message?
- And with what purpose did they search the Scripture? This is an admirable positive purpose.

Repent

"Most Christians repent enough to get forgiven, but not enough to see the kingdom." (Bill Johnson) Discuss