

## Home Group Notes

### Cutting it Out Mark 9 :42-50

#### Introduction

Consider the influence you have on those around you.

- 1 Who do you think you may influence?
- 2 How do you influence them?

We can be an influence by what we do and say and by what we don't do.

- 3 How does the behaviour of other Christians affect you? Think of positive and negative examples.

#### Read Mark 9: 42-50

This is a heavy passage. Jesus uses hyperbole-an intentional overstatement to make a teaching point.

- 1 What does it mean to be a stumbling block? Verse 42.
- 2 Jesus talks of the consequences of being a stumbling block.

Describe in detail the picture Jesus gives us. What does this mean?

Read Romans 14:13-23 This passage is all about meat. At the time meat sold in the market place had been offered to idols. Paul says this meat isn't tainted by being offered to a god that does not exist BUT if it offends a fellow believer don't eat it.

- 1 Meat offered to idols is not our problem but what things may be a stumbling block to others? List 3 or 4 things.
- 2 In the light of Romans 14: 21-23 are there things that we need to refrain from even though we may consider them okay?
- 3 Read Mark 9:42 again. Why does Jesus need to remind the disciples of this basic teaching? Mark 9:33-35.  
Jesus says think of others before yourselves-LOVE OTHERS.

#### Mark 9:43-48

Now the spotlight is on the disciples.

- 1 What sins had they committed earlier? 9:34
- 2 How did this affect their ministry?
- 3 Jesus is not telling them to physically harm themselves. (He teaches us that sin begins in the heart.) But what is Jesus telling them they must do?
- 4 Is there a reason he talks of hands, feet and eyes with regard to sin?
- 5 What is the consequence of sin that is not dealt with?
- 6 Can you identify a specific stronghold of sin in your life? Are you willing to cut it out of your life? How will you do this and who will you call upon to help you?

God calls his people to be pure/holy.

**Read Mark 9:49-50** In OT salt and fire come together when sacrifices were made. Salt was added as a symbol of God's enduring covenant. In NT times salt could be mixed with gypsum but then it was worthless and not fit for use.

- 1 How may we lose our saltiness?
- 2 What does verse 49 mean for us?
- 3 Read Romans 12:1-2 How do these verses fit with verses 49-50?

Summary Jesus sets high standards for his followers. Love others more than self. He calls us to be pure so we must cut out sin. He calls for total commitment- be the salt of the earth: a living sacrifice.

#### Prayer points

1. Pray that we may have the courage to recognise and deal with our own sin.
2. Pray for our church leaders nationally and locally to live pure lives and lead with integrity.