

Life Group Notes

Sunday 06 October 2019

Speaker: Sean Green

Title: Vision Sunday

Our Purpose

To be a growing, Jesus centred community; bringing God's kingdom to Reading and beyond.

Sean spoke about a recent mini adventure where they regularly stopped, took in the scenery and looked at the guidebook. This analogy is helpful when thinking about our confident adventure as a church.

Something Practical

For the past two years we have been trying to purchase 448a Basingstoke Rd and seen incredible answers to prayer. But at end of August, on strong advice from the planning consultant, the owner of 448 decided to end the process. This outcome is NOT what we prayed for, gave for, fasted for, worked for; nor because of Sin. We've learnt a lot and now we're learning how to lament, to express our disappointment to God; to lament well and love Jesus more.

Something Pastoral

Church as the 'Family of God' is both brilliant and messy, often in equal measure, at the same time! It is brilliant when there are spiritual mum's and dads among us, with sisters and brothers in Christ alongside us. But families are messy, sometimes there are absent parents, wayward kids and many awkward moments. Within family there are lots of stories being told at the same time, yet no one narrative describes us all. We need to be sensitive to those around us. Also, during October we are going to have a fun with a 'We' month: changing the pronouns we sing from 'I', 'me' and 'my' to 'we', 'us' and 'ours'. We want to stop saying 'the church should do this' and replace them with 'we should do this'. Small change brings big change.

Something Prophetic

We have been living with a prophetic word 'Change of Use – Change of Heart'. We may have been denied 'Change of Use' on a building, but we have not been denied change of heart towards God, His people, the Lost or Least. Only we can thwart that heart transformation, and by God's grace we will see our hearts changed. David Devenish spoke this over us in May 2018 "Don't forget, remember the poor." We want to keep an open posture towards those who have the Least in our church family and the town of Reading. This Autumn we, us, our church family, are going to review where our resources are spent in terms of caring for the Least in our town.

Suggested questions:

How do you bring your disappointment to God?

What stories are you hearing in our church family?

What stirs in you when you hear "Don't forget, remember the poor?"