

## **Cell Notes Nov 15th 2009**

### **Bible 1 Isaiah 55. 1 - 12**

**(Bible 2 will be on Nov 29th when Ruth and Anne will be displaying Bible Society Material)**

In all sorts of ways, the Bible teaches that the word of God is *food* that keeps us alive. (see e.g. Isaiah 55.1 - 2, Ps 81.10, Ps 19. 10, Matt 4. 4 (quoting Deut 8.3) John 4: 31 - 34. Just as our bodies need physical food, so our spirits need spiritual food and drink if we are to survive.

*What are you hungry for? What feeds you?*

#### **But what is the word of God?**

1. God *spoke* the world into being (Gen 1. 3 etc)
2. Jesus is '*the word made flesh*' (John 1. 14, Heb 1 . 2)
3. The same God who spoke the world into being, and has spoken to us through his Son, *also speaks to us all the time* (see again Isaiah 55, Ps 19, or the Parable of the Sower)

#### **How does God speak?**

dreams

revelations

'still small voice' (see also Isaiah 30.21)

prophecy

life, nature, circumstances, other people etc

but supremely through the Bible

**Why the Bible?** The Bible can seem very long, very difficult, very old and problematic

*See if you can spot two good answers in Isaiah 55. 1 - 12*

1. 'My thoughts are not your thoughts. My ways are not your ways'
2. 'It will accomplish what I desire and will achieve the purpose for which I sent it' As we grow in our knowledge of God through Bible study, so we are better able to read the signs, to know that we are on the right track, that we are in the flow of God's will and purposes. The Bible is like a map, of the journey of humanity, and of our personal journeys.

**How to read the Bible? Here is one way.** There are as many ways to read the Bible, as there are needs. One need is for help and guidance through life. Here is a way to seek and find God's guidance.

*You could try this with your cell group.*

1. Think of an issue in your life. It could be a sharp and immediate crisis or something more long term that you maybe have been avoiding.
2. Bring the issue before God. Try to lay it out as fully and honestly as you can manage in all its aspects. Be honest about your emotions. You might begin to suspect that things are less simple than you supposed.
3. Wait on God. Try to surrender your will in the matter and put your trust in God who loves you. Wait for God's word. It could come from Scripture or from other sources. If it comes from other sources, you need to examine any conclusions in the light of Scripture.
4. Share the issue with other Christians, maybe a group or a prayer partner. Ask them to wait upon God as well, as you are doing. Remember '*My thoughts are not your thoughts*' It is good to involve someone who may be more open to God than you are able to be.
5. Prayerfully compare conclusions. Again test them in the light of your understanding of God's will from Scripture. Maybe agree a course of action and a time to meet to review progress.

