



LIFE GROUP PLANNING

Week beginning:

Aim of session:

What might God want to say to the group?

Local Church... to the ends of the Earth:

Based on Compassion Sunday: Speaker: Andy Hutchinson
from Compassion UK



Key Scriptures

If you have access to a commentary read some background to get context.

The Bible Project is a good starting point.

<https://bibleproject.com/>

Matthew 25: 31-46

Warm Up

What is your favourite animal? Why?

Are there animals that frighten you?

In the Bible, what animals are symbolic?

What do they symbolise?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

This famous parable is a parable of judgement and is often **misunderstood** to mean that you can earn salvation by good works. Jesus is highlighting how the righteous, the already saved, will demonstrate righteousness.

1. What is the king (Jesus) judging in the parable?
2. How do the righteous know their faith is genuine? (see James 2:14-17 also 1 John 3:17-18)
3. Are there things that we do that neither prove or disprove our faith?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

4. Jesus speaks of "these brothers of mine" in V40 What do you think he means?
5. The parable sets out a duty of faith to serve others. Which people should we be serving?
READ Galatians 6v9-10
6. It is not possible to serve everyone all the time. How does Galatians 6 help decide who to help?
7. What are the marks of genuine faith? Luke 10v27; 1 John 1v8-10; James 4v6; Psalm 105v3;
1Tim 2v1-4; 1Cor 2v12; Eph 4v1-16; Matt 7v21; 1 Peter 2v1-3; 2Cor 5v17; Rom 8v15;
Matthew 25 v31-46



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.