

Lifegroup notes from Sunday 3 July 2022

Reading: John 1:1-18

Everyone welcome

On Sunday we completed our short series taking a look at our vision statement, L.I.F.E to the full:

Love of the Father

Identity in Christ

Fire of the Spirit

Everyone's welcome.



As it was a baptism service, I primarily preached a gospel message, beginning with our experience of needing to get home to Lancaster, and not being able to catch the bus from Victoria that we were meant to, so pleading with the driver of the bus going furthest north, to Sheffield, who said to us "Get on the bus", even though we had no valid ticket. This was a great picture of grace. Something that was not due to us, that we had not been able to do for ourselves was given freely.

In the passage we read so many "alls", and see the truth that Jesus is the one who gives light and life to all, and who gives to all who believe in him and call on His name the right to become God's children.

We pondered on the "alls" here, and how the grace of God is freely given to all who will come to Him. He is the God who desires than none should perish, the one who says "All who call on the Lord will be saved".

The good news is not reserved for a select few who are somehow good enough or holy enough to merit it, but instead is for all of us, broken, helpless, sinful as we are.

Everyone is welcome to come to Jesus, and we want to be a church that helps people find Heaven's welcome.

We reflected on how just knowing this as a truth is not enough; that if this is true it changes everything. If it's true Jesus gave Himself for us, then that demands a response.

Some questions

- What encouraged or challenged you in this message?
- Take a look at the "alls" in the passage. Count them. Which one stands out to you, and why?
- If you had to describe the good news, how would you do that?
- Have you ever experienced tremendous grace from another person. What happened, and how did you feel?
- Who are the people in your FRAN network (friends, relatives, associates and neighbours) who need to hear the invite, "get on the bus"?
- What would be the best way of making sure they hear it clearly?
- Finally, as you reflect on the baptism, does it bring back memories of your own? How are you doing with keeping the promises you made?