

FINDING ANCIENT pathways

Soul care wisdom from the Psalms

GROWTH GROUPS NOTES FOR W/C 13 FEBRUARY 2022

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO GUIDE MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH. PSALMS 119:105

Think about some of the words and images you have heard talked about in reference to the Bible? e.g. *The Word of God, the Good Book...*

- Where do these ideas come from and how do they impact how we understand and value the Bible?

“It is Christ Himself, not the Bible, who is the true word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers will bring us to Him. We must not use the Bible as a sort of encyclopaedia out of which texts can be taken for use as weapons.” C S Lewis

- Can you think of times where the Bible has been used (and maybe still is) as a 'weapon'?
- Are there any ways we understand our faith today that are substantially different to our descendants because of how we interpret the Bible?

Peter spoke about inspiration as though there are some parts of scripture that consistently point us to the Word of God, Jesus. Similarly, there are those parts of the Bible which are perhaps less helpful to us.

- **How do you feel about this?** Does it challenge or undermine how we value the Bible?
- In practice, **do we value all scripture equally?** If so, how does that work out in our lives? If not, why not?

When we read the Bible we have to remember that we always come to it bringing our own context and background.

- What kinds of things, or biases, might influence our understanding and application of the Bible? Who might understand the Bible differently to you?
- In the light of your conversations, what place does the Bible have in your life? In what ways is it a light to your path?

Share this prayer today as you close:

We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favoured few, but for the least of our world.

This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.