

Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 25th November 2007

Theme: Choices: Choosing and being chosen!

To Get Us Started: Have you ever been faced with a really important decision? What was it and had did you go about deciding how to move forward? What is the worst decision you've made? Can you tell your cell members about it?!

Word

There are many different scenarios in the Bible about different choices people were forced to make. Sometimes we see people making wrong decisions and trying to run away from making the right decisions (i.e. King David after his affair with Bathsheba and murder plot of her husband & the account of the reluctant prophet Jonah).

At other times we see people agonising over difficult decisions and surrendering their will to do God's will even though it meant hardship (i.e. Abraham leaving his own country (Gen.12); Moses going back to Egypt (Ex.4); Isaiah accepting the call through his heavenly vision (Is.6) & ultimately Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk.22:39-46).

- Spend some time looking at the Old Testament passages. They contain challenges about the choices we make -
 - Joshua 24:14-15 - Made a choice on behalf of his family
 - Deuteronomy 30:11-20 - Moses challenge to the Israelites - and us!
- And now look at some New Testament passages -
 - Luke 10:22 - What does the Son choose to do? Discuss
 - John 15:16 - Who does Jesus choose? Discuss
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - Who does God choose and to do what? Discuss

Worship/ Prayer

The choices we make affect our lives here on earth and beyond the grave. We need to humble ourselves before the Lord so that we are open to Him and so that through the Holy Spirit we continually make the right choices so that our lives are kept on the straight and narrow way that leads to life (Matt.7:13-14).

Spend some time in prayer and worship focussing on the goodness of the Lord. He is our Shepherd and He leads and guides us. Perhaps you'd like to meditate on Psalm 23 or John 10:11-18). Also thank the Lord for the wonderful Counsellor the Holy Spirit who enable us to walk in the Spirit - if we listen to Him. In fact - spend some time in worship listening to Him!

Witness

During the average day we are faced with literally hundreds of choices - some small and insignificant (What shall I have on my toast?!); I'll let this motorist out of the junction! I'll make my work colleague a cup of coffee!, etc. Some of these are considerably more important - such as moving house, job, church(!), how best to look after elderly relatives, etc. However, we have a bigger decision to make which over-arches all of these - Will we choose life? Will we choose to not only involve God in the small and large things of life, but actually allow Him to work through us in these different situations. We have to make a conscious decision to allow Jesus to be Lord of all of it. We can choose to be a blessing to others, we can choose to take up our cross, we can choose to persevere in doing good as an act of devotion to the Lord or we can choose to please ourselves and do it the easy way! It's your choice!