LEADER NOTES - Brockley Chapel

HomeGroup Feb 2025

**Planning Ahead**

**One of our leadership tasks this spring is to plan ahead for the next 5 – 10 years for Brockley Chapel. We are keen to consult widely about this and welcome your thoughts and contributions. Today in homegroup, we are considering some passages that mention planning – and seeing what we can learn from them.**

***25****Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:****26*** *[ ] whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.* ***28****“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?****29****For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,****30****saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’* Luke 14 25 – 30 abridged

***13****Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”****14****Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.****15****Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”* James 4:13-15

*Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.* Proverbs 24:27

*in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:6

**Q1**
Do you plan ahead as a family or an individual? Have you got any examples of where you did or didn’t plan ahead and how things worked out? (Try and think of something in advance of the meeting. Homegroups only work if people are willing to speak out and share – the bad as well as the good. Humorous mishaps that work out OK in the end are always good to hear about.)

**Q2**
Why do you think Jesus starts talking about building a tower in Luke 14? Does anything strike you as odd in these verses?

**Q3**
In what ways do you think following Jesus is costly? Do you feel that following Jesus has been costly for you? How?

**Q4**
Have you heard of a SWOT analysis? It is often used by businesses and organisations to do a quick survey. S = strengths. W = weaknesses. O = opportunities and T = threats.

Together makes some notes using the SWOT approach to Brockley Chapel. Please make some notes and email them to Simon – all your thoughts will be considered when the team gets to this topic. simonjamesladd@yahoo.co.uk

**Q5**
When I was a boy, all the posters that came around advertising upcoming anniversary services at surrounding chapels had DV in brackets written on them somewhere. What did it mean? And considering James 4:13-15 should we still do it? What is the main thrust of this passage for us each?

**Q6**
What do you think is meant by “Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.” Proverbs 24:27

And does it have any relevance for our forward planning at Brockley?

**Q7**
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6

This is a well known passage on the subject of guidance. What does it tell us and what does it not tell us?

**Sharing, Prayer and Thanks**
Please be ready to share some of your own personal struggles and successes. Homegroups work much better if we are willing to be open with each other. This honesty and mutual support is the essence of Christian fellowship