**Small Group Notes – Sunday March 19th 2017**

**Gifts of the Spirit – FAITH**

**Welcome**

What are your favourite examples of faith in action in the bible? What makes the one(s) you choose stand-out for you?

**Worship**

Read Psalm 24 together and use it as a staring-place for a time of praise and worship.

**Word – the spiritual gift of faith (1 Corinthians 12 v 9)**

* Different to ‘saving faith’ (1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 5:1)
* The spiritual gift of faith – “A surge of faith / confidence that God is going to act in a certain way in a specific situation”
Some biblical examples –
Elijah (1 Kings 18); Woman (Mark 5:25-34); Ananias (Acts 9:10-19)
* Purposes of the gift of faith:
	+ Glorify God
	+ Build faith in other believers
	+ Bring people with no faith to faith for the first time
* Eagerly desire the spiritual gifts (1 Cor.14:1)
1. How do you understand the difference between ‘saving faith’ and the ‘gift of faith’ (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 12:9)
2. Have you experienced the gift of faith yourself or in someone else?
What happened?
3. In addition to the 3 examples above, what other biblical examples of this gift of faith can you think of? (e.g. Gen. 6:13-22, 15:6; 2 Kings 4:32-37; Acts 3:1-10; Heb.11:7-12)
4. What similarities can you see between them, both in the practice of them and the outcome for those involved / witnessing them?
5. How should we ‘test’ what someone else shares as a gift of faith?
6. What does ‘eagerly desiring’ this gift of faith look like in practice?
Does anything hold you back from desiring it (or other gifts) eagerly?

**Prayer**

* Eagerly desire the spiritual gifts – in prayer.
* Pray for those who have not yet come to saving faith in Jesus.
* Those who are unwell, including Graham Gilby, Eara Ko, Freddie Williams, John Rowlinson, Dilys Cottom and any others you are aware of.