Small Group notes - 29 April 2018

Welcome
What is your favourite book of the Bible and why?

Worship
At the start of John 1, Jesus is described as the Word. A simple and ancient practice of slowing down and meditating on scripture together is 'Lectio Divina'. Please see separate PDF for info. Use John 1: 1-14 as the scripture.

Word - James 1:19-27 - "Hear the word and do the word"
This passage can be summed up in one statement. James states 'Hear the word and do the word'. A metaphor for this could be like 'paddling a canoe', or a 'riding a bike'.

- **Hear the Word v19**

We need to place ourselves in a regular space for hearing God's Word spoken and taught. Prioritise time in our daily schedules as many things can stop God's Word being planted in us.

BE: Quick to listen v 19
        Slow to speak v19
        Slow to become angry v19
        Get rid of all moral filth v21
        Humbly accept the Word v21

- **Do the Word v22**

God's commands – the one another's. Why don't you do it? - V23
If anyone considers himself religious (a Christian) v26
Controlled behaviour v26 and a compassionate heart v27. Helpful and holy lifestyle v27
James is telling us that authentic faith includes both hearing the word and doing what it says.

Questions
- Why is it critical for us to be both hearers and doers?
- Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger - V19. Which of these is the most difficult for you and why?
- What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you? V21
- What does it mean to receive the Word humbly? V21
- In what ways is God's Word like a mirror? V25
- How is it that a set of laws, commands can bring freedom? V25
- When have you been blessed by doing the Word? V25
- How authentic is your faith? In what practical ways do you put God's Word into practice?
- What have you learnt about God from this passage? What have you learnt about yourself?

Reminders
Please encourage your group to come along to the 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer event on Sat 12 May. 9.30am -10.30am – pray together at NMBC (prayer stations until 1pm).