

Growth Group Questions – 16/5/2021 – Jack Kapinga

Read Matthew 16:21-27.

- 1) 1 in 8 followers of Jesus in the world today experience significant persecution. How do you think they'd respond to these verses? Why might it be awkward for us to have a conversation with someone who truly suffers for their faith?
- 2) How do we generally respond when called upon to give up our time, energy, comfort, traditions or money for the Lord, his Church or his Kingdom? How often do we truly sacrifice?
- 3) Why do you think Peter responds to Jesus the way he does in verse 22? Why do you think Jesus reacts so strongly to Peter in verse 23?
- 4) What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"? What would such discipleship look like in our context?
- 5) What should be our motivation and inspiration to accept this calling to a life of self-sacrifice? Have you accepted your calling?
- 6) Our Vision 2030 for Riverbank is "To be people who love God, love our Community, and love the Church." Why is it so important to have a proper and Biblical understanding of the word "love"?
- 7) In what ways might our Vision 2030 Goals require us to make real sacrifices for the sake of the gospel? (Note you can find our Goals on the next two pages and you can also find the entire Vision 2030 document attached separately in the email)
- 8) How does this passage affect your attitude toward honouring the Lord, reaching out to the lost and serving one another in our Church?

Our broad Goals at Riverbank for 2021 to 2030



Loving God

- 1 To instil a stronger culture of prayerfulness and dependence on the Lord in our personal lives, our families, our Growth Groups, our Ministries, our Church Council, and our Church as a whole, particularly focussing on an increased level of prayer for our God-given mission to the lost.
- 2 To review every element of our Worship Services to make sure that we are truly focussed on giving praise and honour to the Lord, being encouraged and challenged in our faith, and communicating the gospel clearly to unbelievers and new believers.

Loving our Community

- 1 To increasingly encourage a shift in culture where outreach is at the forefront of all that we are and do, both as individuals and as a whole Church, applying the biblical principles of Organic Outreach.
- 2 To pray about, investigate, prepare for and implement the planting of a new congregation by outreach focussed members, probably in the Legana region.
- 3 To increase our support of mission organisations and church mission initiatives, by our prayers, financial support and personal participation.
- 4 To develop our website and social media platforms to make them more accessible, relevant and engaging.
- 5 To set up a full plan for integrating newcomers into our Church, including review of our resources and methods.

Loving the Church

- 1 To provide resources to help every member and every family to grow in their devotional lives, their maturity and holiness in Christ, their love for others within and outside the Church, their attitude of service and sacrifice, and their ability to articulate, promote and defend the Christian faith.
- 2 To encourage our Growth Groups to increasingly become places of meaningful prayer, life changing Bible study, genuine pastoral care and committed evangelism, keeping each other accountable in our Christian walk, and also to see a far higher portion of the Church participating in such groups.
- 3 To set up a mentoring and discipleship plan, encouraging as many members as possible to be involved in a 1 to 1 mentoring relationship, especially those not involved in a Growth Group, for the purposes of prayer and studying the Word as well as providing encouragement and accountability in life and ministry.
- 4 To continually improve the teaching and encouragement of our young people, ensuring that all our children's and youth ministries are integrated and working toward a common goal of making committed disciples for Jesus.
- 5 To develop a training plan for all leaders, including an expectation that leaders in every ministry will aim to raise up new godly leaders to strengthen their ministry and replace themselves.
- 6 To review the Pastoral Care provided by various ministries in our Church with a view to improved coordination, greater coverage and a stronger focus on discipleship.
- 7 To instil a strong culture of inclusion that provides love, care, respect, acceptance and ministry to all, that is without favouritism.

Loving God, Community & Church

- 1 To assist the achievement of our goals by increasing our financial giving and increasing our Staff level to the equivalent of 5 full time positions.
- 2 To set up a full ministry resource bank, continually updating and improving it for the benefit of the whole Church.
- 3 To consistently implement and promote our Vision 2030 and keep our Vision document alive and active.