

Discipleship – Spring 2012 – Week beginning 21st May

Home group / study notes: Handing over

Feel free to use as much or as little as you wish. Don't rush the discussions in order to 'finish' the study, and make sure you allow time for the prayer.

Share times when you have handed something over to someone else. It could be work... or home... or growing children... or responsibility... or even a home group! Or describe a time you have taken something over *from* someone else. What are the potential problems and benefits? What is the purpose of handing on to someone else? Is it easy to do? What can help to make it easier and get the 'job' done better? Have a brainstorm of the feelings involved.

Read John 14:15-31 What words of comfort does Jesus try to give to his disciples as he warns them about his 'exodus'? The latter word is used in Luke 9:30 at the Transfiguration. What overtones does it carry?

Read Luke 24:45-end and Acts 1:1-11. What was the job to be done? What promises given? Feelings?

What sort of handovers work best in your experience?

- One leader selecting the next? Read Deut 34 and Josh 1:1-6
- Asking / seeking God and look for signs? Read 1 Kings 19:15-21 and 2 Kings 2:7-15
- Keep it in the family? Read 1 Chron 29: 10, 18-22. But also 2 Chron 10:16-17 – the great split between Israel and Judah which never healed and resulted in Jews and Samaritans
- Democracy (sort of)? Read Acts 1:23-26

How do we ensure a degree of continuity (eg in church organisation and personnel) while allowing for different people's gifts, personality and character, not to mention the fact that God might be wanting things done in a new way, or even not at all? Eg PCC members; paid members of staff; paid or voluntary coordinators; church secretary, treasurer; someone to take over an area of responsibility.

How should we 'wait on God'? **Read** Acts 1:12-14. (v15 tells us there were about 120 by now). How should we pray, individually and corporately? See also Acts 2:46-47.

Pray. What ministry is God handing over to *you*? Use **Eph 1:15-20** as a prayer for *you* and for *St James'* – someone read it slowly over the group. Then spend some time (music background if you like) sitting in a comfortable but attentive posture (both feet on ground, not lots of crossed arms and legs) and allow God to let you think about some of the things which have been raised in the homegroup.

If you have nagging feelings about some area of ministry or church life, resolve to speak to someone about it. If you have insight into an area of church life which might be done differently, share it.

Offer prayer ministry to one another as appropriate.

Optional extra / information:

With regard to overall church leadership, the Anglican church appoints ministers who are given the official 'seal of approval' through ordination, with input from the parish(es) concerned who have a power of veto, but the minister is not employed by those parishes. He or she is technically ministering on behalf of the Bishop. Other churches are congregational – the local church chooses and employs the minister; others are totally centralised and ministers are just appointed, with varying degrees of consultation. What are the pros and cons?