

1) *What was the first thing to change in your life when you became a Christian?*

2) *On Sunday Rich spoke about five ways we can resist God but still think we are okay. Which one did you most identify with? Why?*

3) *Read 1 Samuel 15v1-29:*

a) *i) What did the Lord command Saul to do with all the livestock captured in the battle?*

ii) What did Saul actually do with it?

iii) Why did Saul not do what God had said?

iv) In what ways do you do something different to what God says to you?

b) *i) How did Saul try to excuse his actions?*

ii) How do Saul's actions show a religious rather than a relationship view of God?

iii) In what ways do you excuse yourself when you do not obey God?

c) *i) What does v22 tell us about how to please God?*

ii) What were the consequences of Saul's failure to obey?

iii) What might be the consequences of your failure to obey?

Read Psalms 139 v23&24:

d) *i) Ask God to show you areas in your life where you are failing to fully obey him.*

ii) Ask someone you trust to tell you the truth about where they think you are holding back on God.

4) Digging Deeper Question – for those who want to study a bit extra

Read Isaiah 29v13-16

- a) *How are the people described in this passage being religious rather than relating to God?*
- b) *Why do they think they will get away with disobeying God?*
- c) *What does this passage teach us about 'secret sin'?*
- d) *In what ways do you pay 'lip-service' to God?*
- e) *How can you ensure your worship of God is genuine and acceptable?*

Please Pray:

Please pray for the **Freedom in Christ course** that Jack is running on Wednesday evenings. Please pray that he would speak well and that those attending will really get to grips with their freedom in Christ.

Baptisms on Sunday 13th May. Please pray for a great morning; that there will be lots of guests and that we would have a real sense of the presence of God. Please pray that the guests that come will respond to Jack's message and that they will meet with Jesus for themselves. Also pray that the practicalities of the morning will run smoothly.

Small Group Leaders: Please pray for your Small Group leaders this week. Also pray for more Small Group leaders and that we would meet our aim of growing to nine groups this year.

Berlin: Please pray that they would continue to grow in numbers; both the church plant and the core team itself. Pray for energy for Nigel as he leads his team and juggles his full-time teaching job. Please pray for grace for Clare and the kids as they continue to face the challenges of their new life in Berlin.

Notices:

We have **Baptisms on Sunday 13th May.** This is a great service to bring friends and family along to. If you have not been baptised and would like to be, please speak to Rich or Chris.

We are having a **Church BBQ on Sunday 20th May.** This will be held at Abbots Wood and will be straight after the morning service. Please bring your own food to put on the BBQ along with anything else you think you will need. A map of how to get there will be available on the Sunday morning.

Together @ Plumpton: 6th - 10th June. It's less than 5 weeks until this fantastic event. It's looking to be bigger and better than ever before. With key speakers David Devenish, Martyn Dunsford and Julian Adams this event is not to be missed! Book in ASAP by filling in a booking form and returning it to Sue.