



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 15th October 2023



Matthew 17: 22-27 A fish called Wonder

Warm Up

When I (Jez) was little I was frightened of bananas, because my brother told me that a tarantula spider had been found in a bunch of them. What strange or unexpected things have you found in places you did not expect?

Background and context

The temple tax was an annual two drachma tax used for the upkeep of the temple in Jerusalem. Every male over the age of 20 had to pay it. It was about two days wages. It is possible that as Jesus had no fixed abode, he may have been accused of avoiding payment. Or it may have been a deliberate act to try and trap him. Either way, Jesus responds in a way that leaves us in no doubt that He was and is the Son of God and has limitless power.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



Read Matthew 17:22-27. *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. If you had limitless power for one thing, what would you do?
2. We're not told that this miracle actually took place, what do you think happened next?
3. What do you think is the point of such a complicated miracle?
4. What/Who/Where is the biggest problem in the world?
5. What does the Bible say is the biggest problem in the world?
6. How does Jesus' death and resurrection address that problem?
7. Read 2 Peter 3:8-13. Why is God still allowing the world to go on rebelling against Him?
8. Why is this good news for us?
9. What should we be focussing on as we are "looking forward to a new Heaven and a new Earth, the home of righteousness"?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application



10. If Jesus has limitless power, what should we be doing?
11. As we are all God's creations, (saved or not) how should we behave towards one another?
12. In a world full of pain and misery why should we be joyful?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.