

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him, but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

The things we have seen and the things we have heard play such a significant part in what *we conceive*. Our audio and visual experiences often leave our psychological apparatuses baffled and bewildered. As a result, we grapple with worries, fears and imaginations of what might happen in the near or distant future.

Questions for life groups:

- What are the pervading fears/ anxieties of those around you – neighbours, colleagues, family, friends – society at large?
- Do you share these fears? Or do you have different fears.
- “Is *fear* a sin?” – what is your response to this? How does the Bible or the life and works of Jesus speak into this thought? What in your experience / opinion is God’s response to our fear? What is fear of the Lord? (cf Acts 9:31)
- God is love - **1 John 4:8** – but if you had to use five other words to describe the nature of God to others – what five words – other than love – would you use and why? (Try to use words that you “*know*” to be true – rather than simply the “*right*” or expected ones!)

Share some testimony about how these words concerning the nature of God have been established in your life.

- Do you think these words, describing the nature of God as experienced by us in the church, would be recognized by non-Christians today?
- If not, why not?

Read John 3:16

God so loved that He **gave**...

- How and what does God continue to daily give to us?
- What might this mean for our future security? (perhaps read **Philippians 4:11-13**)

Read & meditate on **Jer 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

- What does this verse say to you?

In closing perhaps read together aloud as a prayer of blessing for one another: **Romans 15:13**: ***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Thank God for his continuing provision and goodness to us. Pray for needs in your group/ for anxieties and fears / for our living witness of Christ as the hope to the hopeless – to be a beacon of light in an increasingly dark generation.