

Home Groups Study Questions

Week 5 – Luke 7: 18 – 35

‘... Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard...’ v22

Our series is entitled ‘**Generous Disciples**’ and we have so far mainly looked at the generosity of God towards us. Our thoughts this week look at what our ministry might look like from an external perspective.

The Ely Diocese currently has as their vision statement ‘We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ’.

The statement goes on to define **generosity** in this context as;

‘... a summary word for our response to the gospel. As God gave himself generously, unstintingly to the world He loves, He calls us to reflect His nature. The gospel commands, ‘Freely you have received, freely give’ (Matt 10:8). Its implications run through both our relationships with others in the church, with those outside the church, our use of money, and time, and so on.’

The statement also describes the need to be **visible** as Christians;

Daring to be out and about in the places where God has put us working as salt, light and yeast. Not taking refuge in our buildings, or always remaining where we are comfortable, but being present where people are. Serving our communities, working with others for the common good.

When John sends two of his disciples to speak with Jesus the reply they get is ‘... Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard...’.

Our questions for groups this week centre around an external, ‘looking in’ view. Could we say to someone ‘*Go back and report what you have seen and heard*’?

1. What was happening for John’s disciples to see and report back on?
2. If someone, particularly a non-Christian, looked at GSFC, what do you think they would see and report?
3. How could we as a Church improve our image? Does it matter what others think anyway?
4. What about someone looking at your own life. Would they get a good impression of Jesus from what they see?
5. Are we acting generously?

In conclusion, spend time in prayer asking and seeking God to guide us as a Church and as individuals to be generous and visible.