

DANGEROUS FAITH

Discussion Notes

DEATH WISH

With it being baptisms this week, you may want to dedicate some more time to praying for each other as the discussion notes are shorter than normal. In particular, you might want to focus on the question of what holds us back from committing more to Jesus and praying for each other to start living that out more.

This week, Kate focused on baptism and the commitment that we make during the ceremony. Kate said that baptism is part of the fact that our faith isn't 'safe' because it is a death wish - we choose to die to our own way of living and fully commit to Jesus. Spend some time reflecting on commitment.

- What does it mean for us to 'commit' to Jesus? What would it look like if we really committed?
- How does baptism symbolise that?
- What stops us from being more committed in our faith?
- How can we help each increase our commitment?

Read Matthew 3:13-17 together.

- What does the fact that Jesus was baptised even though he was a perfect, sinless man tell us about baptism?

Kate explained that we when get baptised it isn't just us making a commitment to God, instead it is a two way conversation. As we commit, He responds. We see this is what happens next.

1) Heaven was opened.

- What does it mean to have the doors of heaven opened up to us? Have you experienced that yourself in coming to faith?
- What do you think the significance of the God appearing as a dove is?
- God responds to our commitment with peace and gentleness. What difference should knowing this that make to our lives?

2) **God's Spirit fills us.** The passage says the Spirit of God 'alighted on him [Jesus]'; or in other words it stayed with Jesus. As we commit to God we receive the power of his Holy Spirit and he come to fill us.

- Kate shared her experience of encountering the Holy Spirit. Has anyone got a similar experience?
- What difference should being filled with the Holy Spirit make to us?
- Why do you think there appears to be this connection between our commitment to God and him filling us with his Spirit?

3) **God reveals us as children of God.** The audible voice of God speaks and says 'this is my son, whom I love'.

- What does it mean to be a child of God?
- What difference would it make to your friends who don't know Jesus if they knew they were a child of God?
- Normally the reminder that we are God's kids isn't an audible voice from heaven, so how can we remind ourselves of this truth? What stops us from believing it?

4) God says he is pleased with us.

- If you truly believed that God was pleased with you - no matter what you do or don't do - what difference would it make to the way you live and the way you feel about yourself?
- What can we do as a hub to remind each other that God is pleased with us?