

Parish of Ferndown - Study sheet for w/c 13th April 2008
John Chapter 21, Verses 15-25

1. 'Lump' - If you were at the main morning services on Sunday you will have seen the NOOMA® video 'Lump' which told the story of a strange white rubber ball found in Rob Bell's house. Nobody seemed to know where it came from, until his son got 'busted', and it was found to have been 'borrowed' from a neighbour, to whom it was later returned. When his son realized he had been found out he was so upset that he went and hid under the duvet for two hours because he thought Rob would be so angry with him. But Rob, like Jesus with Peter, didn't get angry. He just hugged the lump under the covers that was his son and reminded him that there was nothing he could ever do that would make Rob love him less.

- Do you ever act unnaturally when you're doing something you know you shouldn't be doing? Why do you think we do this?
- Have you ever got found out for something you've done? Is it possible to keep something secret and not get found out?
- What are ways you avoid dealing with your personal junk? Do you 'run upstairs and hide' like Rob's son?
- Do you have people around you that could never do anything to make you love them less? Is this really how we should feel about other people?
- See Romans 8:38-39. Do you believe deep in your heart that God loves you no matter what you've done or will do?

2. 'Love came Down' - In the services we wrote 'Sorry' on a piece of paper and shredded it, to symbolise God's attitude to those times when we let him down. Reflect on this song which was played and think about how you have let God down recently, how you could have represented Him better, how you could have been more Christ-like.

When I call on Your name You answer
When I fall You are there by my side
You delivered me out of darkness
Now I stand in the hope of new life.

*By grace I'm free
You've rescued me
All I am is Yours*

I've found a love greater than life itself
I've found a hope stronger and nothing compares
I once was lost now I'm alive in You

From 'Love Came Down' Ben Cantelon © 2006 Thankyou Music

3. 'How are you?' – 'Fine'

Read John 21:15-25.

Jesus questioned Peter three times as he reinstated him. One way of looking at this is to compare it with us saying 'how are you' and initially getting 'fine' as an answer, before the subject breaks down under intense scrutiny and admits that their life is a mess.

- "How are you?"
- Are you putting up a mask?
- Are you responding 'fine' to even your closest friends?
- Are you responding 'fine' to Jesus?

- Looking at it from Jesus' perspective, do you have a Peter in your life? Somebody who has hurt you badly and that you are not forgiving? Ask God to help you forgive them.

4. Sheep and Lambs

Our mission (which we accepted from Simon last week) is to share God's love with the world. St Mary's seems to have an excess of missionaries and CYFA seems to breed them – Amber, Anna, and the Durban '09 team. But we don't have to go far away to do this job – we are all missionaries.

- What can we do in our daily contact with people to show God's love, to persuade people that God doesn't love them any less just because they haven't loved Him back?

5. Closing

End with these words of Rob Bell, used as a prayer:

May you stop hiding under the covers.

May you let God pull the covers back.

May you embrace Him.

May your whole life become a response to the truth that you've always been loved, you are loved, and you always will be loved.

And may you know, may you know deep in the depths of your soul that there's nothing you could ever do to make him love you less.

Nothing you could ever do to make God love you less.

Nothing you could ever do to make Him love you less.

Nothing.

Nothing