

## Home Group Notes 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Welcome** Were you ever in the Scouts or Guides? What did the motto 'Be prepared' mean to you?

**Worship** *Sing or read (Tune Hyfrydol)*

I will sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me.  
How he left the realms of glory  
For the cross at Calvary.  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me,  
Sing it with the saints in glory  
Gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost, but Jesus found me,  
Found the sheep who went astray,  
Raised me up and gently led me  
Back into the narrow way.  
Days of darkness still may meet me,  
Sorrow's path I oft may tread;  
But his presence still is with me,  
By his guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river  
Rolls its waters at my feet.  
Then he'll bear me safely over,  
Made by grace for glory meet.  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me,  
Sing it with the saints in glory,  
Gathered by the crystal sea.

Reflect quietly on the words of the hymn, to think how –or if – the words are true of your own life. Share if you feel able.

**Word** *Read 1 Thess. 4:13-18*

1. If we are still alive, what will we see when the Lord comes? Where will we meet Him?
2. With which words should we encourage one another?

**Read** *Matthew 24:1-3, 36-44, 25:1-13* The question in 24:3 prompts the following teaching about the kingdom of God.

3. What event is foretold in 24:2?
4. Why do you think "no-one knows about that day or hour?" (24:36)
5. The 10 bridesmaids (25:1) had a very important role. What should they all have done?
6. All through Scripture we are told that we must be ready – for the Bridegroom, Jesus, will come when we do not expect him. How should we make our preparations for his coming?
7. Why did the wise bridesmaids not give the foolish ones some of their oil?
8. Why did the Bridegroom refuse entry to the foolish bridesmaids?
9. When will it be too late for us?
10. Do you think the church should teach these truths more than it does, and how can we make people aware of God's call?
11. What difference will this study make to your life and mission?

**Witness**

1. Pray for those who do not know the Lord Jesus – in our families, in our community, and our nation.
2. Pray for the church to preach the whole gospel faithfully.
3. Pray for the mission of St. Michael's and St. John's to our communities.
4. Pray for those in special need at this time.