

LIFE GROUP NOTES:
(Matthew 16: 13-20)

Week Beginning 4th November 2018
'CHURCH ANNIVERSARY'

TRY THIS:

As it is our church anniversary why don't you take the time to SHARE with one another just ONE personal highlight of being at church this past year and ONE personal hope for the coming year as well.

SYNOPSIS:

In Matthew 16, Jesus left us with the promise that He would build His Church, and that nothing could come against it. We want to celebrate our church and all that God has done, because despite the problems we may face, the best is yet to come and we've commissioned to carry on Jesus' mission.

ANALYSIS:

Q. HOW would you answer the questions Jesus asked his disciples in (Vs. 13 & 15) today?

Father Michael, a Catholic priest, when asked about the state of The Church, replied, *"Did Jesus not say that He would build his Church? Therefore if Jesus said He would build his Church He will build his Church!"*

Q. Do you think Father Michael was naive or faithful and WHY?

Q. IF it is Jesus who builds His Church WHAT role do we play?

Q. HOW would you define the "The Church"?

Q. HOW is the New Testament church different than God's people in the Old Testament and HOW do they foreshadow The Church now?

Q. Are you encouraged or discouraged about the state of The Church at this point in time and WHAT makes you so?

Q. WHAT biblical criteria should we use to evaluate the health of our Church here at Shirley? (Share those passages together.)

APPLY THIS:

- Q.** In WHAT ways are we preparing and praying personally to see growth in our fellowship in the near future?
- Q.** DO we have programs or activities that are not in line with our care values and mission statement? If so, which ones and SHOULD we drop them?
- Q.** WHAT would people around us (friends, neighbours, co-workers, community) say about Jesus through their interaction with us?
- Q.** In WHAT ways might we take some steps of faith to minister to those around us?

PRAY THIS:

WHO can we pray for this week that they would experience the power of the grace of Jesus?

Rev. Joth Hunt

(Southern Counties Baptist Association regional Minister)