

**CELL NOTES**  
**for Andrew Price's talk on 29 July 2007**

**FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE**

**Introduction**

- ◆ BCF started looking at the book of Acts early in 2006 – from a desire to see God renew and transform our life as a church.
- ◆ What has emerged is a picture not of an institution, but of teams of disciples spreading the good news
- ◆ We saw that Jesus focused on making disciples, and that true discipleship is;
  - ◆ Lifelong - we are all learners, no matter how mature we think we are
  - ◆ Holistic – it affects everything we do
- ◆ Making disciples is the task Jesus left us with. We've often focused on church structures and meetings, but Jesus focused on making disciples. When disciples come together to worship, to serve, to pray – we have church. But if we don't have disciples, no amount of buildings, songs or sermons will do the work Jesus gave us to do.

**Knowing and believing**

- ◆ Knowing and believing are important themes in John's gospel. In this context knowing means more than acquiring facts, it's about relational knowing – to know someone. Believing is more than giving mental assent to something. It means a belief that changes you and the way you live.
- ◆ Frequently in John's gospel we find that the disciples did not always understand what Jesus was telling them (e.g. John 16:16-29, John 13; 6-12). We also find that their belief in Jesus was often tested and had to be reaffirmed as they met challenges (e.g. John 6:66, John 20: 25-28)

- ◆ For the disciples, their knowledge and belief was constantly being challenged and deepened. They often encountered uncertainty and doubt. Can we expect to be any different?

### **The challenge for us**

- ◆ We can get “derailed” by disappointment, confusion and doubt – particularly if we were under the mistaken impression that good disciples never experience these things! Be honest – has this happened to you? If so, remember how Jesus restored Peter after he felt he had let Jesus down (John 21). The grace of God is freely available to us!
- ◆ There is always more to learn about God, and we need to be enthusiastic learners (Heb 6: 1-3, 9-12). What are you learning? How is God changing you, and how has your understanding of God changed in the last 12 months?

### **Next steps**

- ◆ Renew your relationship with Jesus in prayer. Share your experiences of prayer in the group. What things have helped you?
- ◆ Review your priorities in the light of being a disciple. Think of how you spend your time and money. Think of where your energy goes and the things you focus on. Is this how you want it to be? Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about this?
- ◆ One huge barrier to learning is fear of failure or looking stupid. Does this hold you back? What do the experiences of disciples like Peter and Thomas tell us about how God looks at these things?