

#2 – ROOTED IN COMMUNITY (Jazz Crowne)

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

John 13:31-35

Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

1. A number of theologians have written about the significance of friendship at the heart of the Gospel – seen, in particular, in the Gospel of John. David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at the University of Cambridge, is about to publish a Theological Commentary on the Gospel of John. He has worked widely in the field of inter-faith relations and reconciliation. He is convinced that **it is all about friendship**.
 - *What does it mean to be a friend?*
 - *Do you have friends you never see and hardly ever talk to?*
 - *Have we been duped by social media into thinking we have hundreds of friends just because they send you Facebook messages on your birthday?*
 - *Do you have 'friends' who might actually need a friend?*
2. In Hawaii they have a rich and beautiful word for family. It is 'Ohana'. According to the 2002 Disney animated science fiction comedy drama, Lilo and Stitch, 'Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten'
 - *Have you ever felt left behind or forgotten?*
 - *Do you feel like that now, or can you think of someone you know who might be feeling like that right now?*
3. As followers of Jesus, we find ourselves, 'in Christ'. But we are not there on our own. We have been brought into community – a family of believers.
 - *Where or when have you encountered God in other people?*
4. Jesus calls us to love one another.
 - *Why is that a hard thing to do sometimes?*
 - *What gets in the way?*
 - *How do we make space for one another?*
 - *How can we create 'Ohana' for the people we meet?*
 - *What one thing could you do to express God's love and friendship to people?*

Psalm 68:6

*Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him – his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*