

## Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2011

Passage Luke 8:16-21

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever been lost?

**Read the Passage: Luke 8:16-25**

Following on from last weeks study of the parable of the soils, as the light of God's word shines in our hearts, it exposes what's in our hearts: areas of sin, or pride, or idols that we worship in place of God. But the implication of what Jesus says in v16, is that not everyone responds positively to the light.

**Questions:**

1. What does the lamp that Jesus is talking about represent?

**Read Matthew 5:14-16.** How does this passage compare to our passage in Luke? Are they talking about the same thing? How might we link them?

2. How is it possible to hear God's word, but then smother its voice in your life?

Can you think of any occasions in your life when you have done this?

3. Considering external pressures, what kind of things might tempt us to tone things down a bit and put a bucket over the word of God?

How can we help our children (and ourselves for that matter) to resist the temptation to water the word of God down in the context of non-christian friends or family?

4. **Read James 1:22-26** What is the deception James is talking about?

Why do you think we are prone to deceive ourselves?

How can we guard against doing this?

5. Why do you think Jesus said in verse 18, 'Take care how your hear?' What are the implications of getting this wrong?

6. **Read Hebrews 4:2 & 11:6.** Why, to benefit from God's word, must you mingle it with faith and how do you do that?

7. **Consider James 1:21.** What does it mean to receive the word of God with humility? How do we stay humble and open and teachable?

**8. Considering Luke 8:18:** Just as you exercise a muscle it's going to grow, the same is true spiritually. But what are the signs that we are becoming spiritually 'flabby'?

**9.** Does Jesus treat his mother and brothers with disrespect?

(You might also consider John 19:26-27, to see something of Jesus' heart for his mother.)

What does Jesus' handling of his family teach us about the relative importance of family relationships?

Who are those who are part of Jesus' family and what are the implications of what Jesus is saying here? (v21)