

Dear All,

Two little tastes of what has been going on:

### **Cooking the Book:**

After preparing the veg together and putting the soup on to simmer, I asked, 'Have you ever made something that you are proud of?' Given the nature of the group, the responses were quite amazing, including re-upholstering a 3 piece suite and carving book ends that are still used some 20 years on. 'How did you feel?' was the next question, to which someone responded 'Kinda too big on the inside, like there wasn't enough room for how pleased I was and I might burst.' We shared a few more experiences and then went through a pictorial account of the creation story. Finishing by saying that when God made all those things and when he made each of us, He thought it was good, He probably had the same feelings you did when you were pleased with what you made'... there was a moments silence, one of those holy feeling pauses, then, reverently, 'That's boss, that is. God thinks I'm alright.'

### **Staying for Lunch:**

Our first session looked at the theme, 'Even Good Parents Make Mistakes'. Starting from a picture of a very lonely looking girl we shared stories, of course we all had plenty of personal experience to draw on! I then 'told' the story of Mary and Joseph losing Jesus on the way back from Jerusalem. At our following meeting one of the girls was really animated when I asked, 'Has anything from the last session made a difference to you over the last fortnight?' 'Yes, yes! It was amazing, right, we was in town and me mate lost her kid, only for a few minutes like but while he was lost we bumped into her mam and her mam was furious, yelling at her and that. And I thought, that's a bit harsh, she's only made a mistake. Then we found the kid but her mam were still going on and I remembered what had happened to Mary so I told her if it was good enough for Jesus to have a human mam that made mistakes then surely it's good enough for anyone!'

The Cooking the Book sessions have proved slow to take off with co-leaders pulling out, truanting children meaning that group members were at compulsory meetings at school and so on, so we have only had one session - please pray that Thursday afternoons become a protected time for this group as they loved the session we had and the soup was delicious! They finished by asking about what happened to Adam and Eve which happens to be the planned theme for the next session using being tricked as a story sharing starter!

Staying for lunch has been much more buoyant and well received. The girls asked for it to be fortnightly. I am hoping that one of the group members will start to take an active part in planning the sessions. It has been great that different members of the group that run mothers and toddlers suggested that they stay behind to join in the discussions and make drinks. It has been great planning the

sessions on a meeting by meeting basis as the direction is set by the stories shared in the previous session.

Meanwhile I am thinking and pulling together bits and pieces to create a Baptism prep tool kit - thanks for the input, advise and ideas you've all sent.

Happy Christmas to you all, I will write my next up date at the end of January.

Blessings

Sonya