**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**October 15th. God habits.**

**Discussion notes: Generosity. 1 John 3:16-20.**

John has a very direct message in his letter. He holds things up to the light and says ‘this means that’. For example, in John 1 he says baldly’ If you say you have no sin-you deceive yourself.’ Here he is equally direct about the practicalities of Love.

1. Love can be a very mystical or nebulous word. How does John define love (v 16)?
2. What two ingredients motivate generosity in v 17?
3. Are we quick to notice, to see, not to protect ourselves from the needs of others, especially our ‘brothers’, fellow Christians of either gender! What might cause compassion fatigue?
4. How much is generosity and ‘no needy one among them’ an ongoing distinctive of the Church? What was the practice of the Church in the first century?
5. How should we practice generosity at Woodlands? What should our responsibility be to the wider world with all its inequalities?
6. What do you understand as the ‘economy’ of the Kingdom of God? Do you think our giving should only be to those who deserved it?

Generosity is a deeply attractive quality. Can you think where God is described as generous? Jesus ‘gave’ everything. How can we receive more of his spirit of generosity and practice generosity on a daily basis?