

PARISH STUDY RESOURCE

July 2019

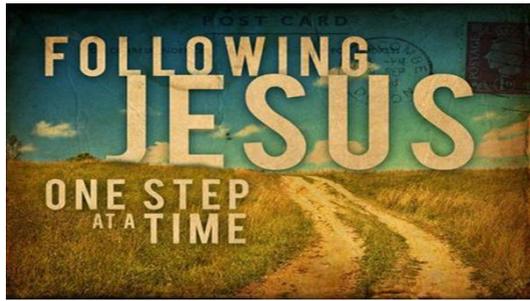


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Anglican
Church
St Peter's Bribie Island

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STUDY – 7 JULY 2019



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5.1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6.1-18

Luke 10.1-24

Open with a time of prayer, which could include the following ...

God of fresh beginnings, you make all things new in the wisdom of Jesus Christ. Make us agents of your transforming power and heralds of your reign of justice and peace, that all may share in the healing Christ brings. Amen.

Question

1. When have you transformed a situation by a simple observation or suggestion?

Reflection - 2 Kings 5.1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to

me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Questions

2. Who are the ones who exercise power in your community in quiet but important ways?
3. What miracles do you dare to hope for in your own life?
4. When have you felt powerless but then received help from the most unlikely source?
5. How is God calling you to be a source of healing for others?

Close with a time of prayer

STUDY – 14 JULY 2019



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7.7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1.1-14

Luke 10.25-37

Open with a time of prayer, which could include the following ...

O God of truth, prepare our minds to hear and heed your holy word; fill every heart that longs for you with your mysterious presence, Lord. Almighty Father, with your Son and blessed Spirit, hear our prayer: teach us to love eternal truth And seek its freedom everywhere. Amen.

Question

1. If someone approached you for money to buy food, how would you respond?

Reflection - Luke 10.25-37

Whatever his motives, the first question posed by the expert in the Jewish law concerning eternal life is of vital importance. Jesus' answer to this question highlights how an authentic faith will overflow in acts of love towards both God and neighbour. In Jesus' response to the second question he focuses on the question, "Who is my neighbour?" (v.29). Such a question presupposes that there are limits to loving one's neighbours, which can be expressed in ethnic, religious, economic or educational terms. Jesus' reply challenges the validity of such a premise by, in effect answering the different question as to what it means to be a good neighbour. He does so by making the hero of the story a Samaritan, a member of a despised race rather than a pious Jew. The Samaritan represents a fine example to be followed, for in him we see the importance of compassion and mercy towards those in need. The lawyer had come to Jesus anticipating an theological debate, but he left reflecting on a personal challenge - "Go and do likewise".

Questions

2. When you see someone in need, what is your first reaction?
3. Showing love and compassion to others can be risky and costly, how far do you think we should go to help someone in need?

Discussion Point - Who is our neighbour

Historically the church has not been open to all, but rather people who fit the expectations of the community. As we consider who is our neighbour, does the answer shape what the church looks like. Should the church be a place of open minds, open hearts, and open doors. A place where all people are welcomed into the full life and ministry of the church irrelevant race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, physical ability, and economic status. Discuss.

Close with a time of prayer

STUDY – 21 JULY 2019



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8.1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1.15-29

Luke 10.38-42

Open with a time of prayer, which could include the following ...

Lord we thank you for everyone gathered here now. Thank you that you know each of us by name and have caused us to walk with You. We say that we are dependant on You and our trust is in You completely. As we surrender ourselves in adoration we ask that You would come by Your Holy Spirit and inspire our hearts today. Come fill our lives with Your love, fill our conversations with Your grace and truth, fill this meeting with Your presence, we ask this for Your glory and praise. Amen.

Question

1. Are you comfortable having visitors in your house if it has not been cleaned?

Reflection - Luke 10.38-42

Perhaps the best-known incident of hospitality in the New Testament involved Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha. While Jesus clearly valued the kindness shown to him and recognised the importance of domestic hospitality, he used Martha's 'distractedness' to underline the need for his followers to get their priorities right. It is also all too easy for busyness and a preoccupation with practical tasks to become all consuming. Appropriate hospitality towards Jesus should combined hands on service with an overriding concern to develop our relationship with him and learn from him.

Questions

2. If you were the parent of Mary and Martha, who would you be prouder of and why?
3. If you were Martha how would you have responded to Jesus remark?
4. If Jesus dropped by your house today, would you prioritise serving or listening?
5. Discuss how we should maintain a healthy balance between carrying out tasks and finding time to listen in our daily lives.

Close with a time of prayer

STUDY – 28 JULY 2019



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1.2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2.6-19

Luke 11.1-13

Open with a time of prayer, which could include the following ...

God, you have made the heavens and the earth.

You have revealed your beauty in creation

and inspired the book that we are now about to study.

Please help us now as we read together.

*Take us deeper into understanding more about you
and your love for us. Amen.*

Question

1. Where is your favourite place to pray? Why?

Reflection - Luke 11.1-13

Luke underlines the importance of prayer by his depiction of both the practice and teaching of Jesus. In this passage we have Luke's version of what we now refer to as the Lord's Prayer, given in direct response to the disciple's request for guidance on how to pray. This response has been understood by Christians down through the centuries as a model of how we should talk with God. For Jesus, prayer needs to be based on a right understanding of the relationship between God and his people. He is our Father and we are his beloved children. This highlights the intimacy and directness of Christian prayer; which needs to be accompanied by appropriate respect (Hallowed by your name). The prayer is also marked by humble submission and a strong sense of dependence upon God, reflecting the truth that both physical and spiritual well-being is a gift from him. The parable and teaching that follows are set with a culture where both the supply of food and opportunities for its storage were significantly more limited than

today. If a grudging neighbour will respond to a request for food in an emergency, how much more willing is a gracious God to hear and answer our prayers in the best possible way (though this doesn't guarantee a YES). In this passage Jesus stresses the need for persistence, boldness and expectancy when we speak to God.

Questions

2. How do you typically pray?
3. Do you feel God hears you when you pray?
4. What does the line "Give us today our daily bread" mean for you?
5. We ask God to forgive us our sins, as forgive those who sin against us. How challenging is this to you?

Close with a time of prayer – finish with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary English Version) Matthew 6.9-13

*Our Father in heaven,
help us to honour your name.
Come and set up your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth
will obey you,
as you are obeyed in heaven.
Give us our food for today.
Forgive us for doing wrong,
as we forgive others.
Keep us from being tempted
and protect us from evil.*