

Friday, 12th March

Loving God

He answered 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind'.

Luke 10.27

The final two verses for this week are not strictly words of Jesus. They are from the Jewish law and Jesus commends the teacher who quotes them as a summary of all that God requires of us. The first requirement is to love God with all we are and all we have.

Questions

- What words would you use to describe love? Can you use the same words to describe love for God?
- How does loving God, help you make a difference to the lives of others?

Challenges

- Bring to mind a hymn or prayer which helps you express something of your love for God.
- Give something to God today; maybe some time or an act of generosity.

Saturday, 13th March

Loving others

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' And Jesus said to him, 'do this, and you shall live.'

Luke 10.28

The second requirement for life is simply stated, love others as you love yourself. Many laws and moral codes are contained, and brought to life, in this simple command. 'Do it and you will live', says Jesus; perhaps that's not so simple.

Questions

- How easy do you find it to love 'your neighbour'?
- How easy do you find it to love yourself?
- Are the two connected?

Challenges

- Reflect on what you have learned and acted on in the last week.
- Make a list of things you like about yourself.
- Do something to show love a 'neighbour' today.

challenge

**Dare to make a difference
by living the words of Jesus**

Week 4

7th - 13th March

Living the Way of Jesus

The main aim of Challenge is for you to take time to pray and think for yourself about the meaning of Jesus' words and how living them might make a difference in your life and, through your life, in the community. This leaflet offers a bit of help to get you started, but its not a substitute for your own reflections.



read it • learn it • pray it • do it

Sunday, 7th March

Looking to God

Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God'..

Luke 9.61-62

This week we consider how living Jesus' way invites us to engage with God and God's world. Today's verse calls for a single minded commitment to serving God.

Questions

- What does it mean to you today to follow Jesus?
- What things might make you 'look back' or get distracted?

Challenges

- Make a choice today which is about 'looking to God'.
- Ask God to help you get a new perspective on your life and on the world.
- Take a step of faith in some area of your life.

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Monday, 8th March
Working with God

Jesus said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Luke 10.2

There's much for the disciples of Jesus to do in the world. It's ready to be done. Are they ready to do it?

Questions

- How would you describe, in today's world, the harvest that Jesus talks about?
- What is it that Jesus is asking us to do?
- Why do we find it hard to do it?

Challenges

- Make a list of three things you could do today to make a difference in the world.
- Choose one and do it.

Wednesday, 10th March
Bringing God's peace

Jesus said, 'Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.'

Luke 10.5-6

As Jesus' disciples go out into the communities and world around them, the first thing they are to bring is peace.

Questions

- What is peace? Reflect on what peace means in your life, in your family, your community and in the world.
- How do we say "Peace to this house" with our lives as well as our words?

Challenges

- Pray for peace in your life, peace in your community and for peace in the world.
- Live today in a way that brings peace to those you meet.
- Do something which brings the world a little nearer to peace.

Tuesday, 9th March
Trusting in God

Jesus said, 'Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.'

Luke 10.3-4

As Jesus' disciples look to God and choosing to make a difference, they are to travel lightly, to live simply, trusting in God in a sometimes hostile world.

Questions

- What do you think Jesus means by 'lambs in the midst of wolves'?
- What do we 'carry' that makes it harder for us to follow Jesus?

Challenges

- Make a change in your life today to express your trust in God.
- Take time to reflect about how you can 'travel' more lightly and live more simply.

Thursday, 11th March
Pointing to God

Jesus said, 'Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you".'

Luke 10.8-9

Jesus' disciples are called to travel lightly, to bring peace and, in their words and through their lives, to point people to the living and healing presence of God.

Questions

- How would you, in your own words, describe 'the kingdom of God'?
- How might we recognise God's presence among us or in the world?

Challenges

- Take time to pray for people and communities which need God's healing.
- Do something today to help someone else realise that God's presence is not far away.