

Friday, 19th March

Knowing your true value

Jesus said, 'Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.'

Luke 12.6-7

We cannot see true, or know the true value of what we see around unless we also know our own true value. Our value comes from God's knowledge of us and his love for us.

Questions

- What things give your life value?
- How does God's knowledge of you give value to your life?
- How do Jesus' words connect with the reality of suffering in the world?

Challenges

- How might you live today with less fear and a greater sense of your own value?
- Do something today to recognise the value of all people and all God's world.

Saturday, 20th March

Knowing life's true value

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.' *Luke 10.28*

As we know our own value, and as we are able to see the value of the people and things around us, so we become more able to see where the true value of life really lies and to live more freely as Jesus disciples.

Questions

- Where, for you, does the true value of life lie?
- What helps us live more freely, more truly and more free from anxiety and worry?

Challenges

- Reflect on what you have learned and acted on in the last week.
- What might make a long term difference to help you live more freely?
- Why not reduce your spending on clothes and food?

challenge

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

Week 5

14th - 20th March

Living Close to 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, 14th March

Taking time with Jesus

Jesus answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' *Luke 10.41-42*

This week we are invited to reflect on how living close to Jesus helps us to see things and ourselves as they really are. Martha chose to rush around, Mary to sit with Jesus. Mary chose the better option.

Questions

- Why do you think Jesus said that Mary had made the best choice?
- Was Mary doing anything 'wrong'?

Challenges

- Choose something you can do each day this week which will be, for you, taking time with Jesus
- With whom could you take time today to sit and talk? Make that time.

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Monday, 15th March
Praying with Jesus

Jesus said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread.'
Luke 11.2

Jesus invites his disciples to pray simply; to recognise an open dependence on God and to seek the reality of God in their lives and in the world.

Questions

- What words occur most frequently in your prayers?
- What does it mean to you to call God, 'Father'?
- What, today, is your daily bread?

Challenges

- Write a prayer of no more than 25 words which goes to the heart of your relationship with God.
- What one thing can you do today to reflect the reality and simplicity of Jesus' prayer.

Wednesday, 17th March
Obeing Jesus

While Jesus was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!' *Luke 11.27-28*

Discipleship begins with time spent with Jesus; it is nurtured in prayer. But discipleship is evidenced in action.

Questions

- Who do you consider to be truly blessed?
- How might Jesus' words offer a different way of looking at how we value people and our lives and actions?

Challenges

- What words of Jesus will you obey and put into action today?
- Pray that God would open your eyes to see those around you who 'hear the word of God and obey it'. Learn from their example.

Tuesday, 16th March
Receiving from Jesus

Jesus said, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.' *Luke 11.9-10*

Jesus encourages his disciples to pray simply and to pray with faith and trust. As they seek God's daily provision and his reality (*see yesterday*) their prayers will find an answer.

Questions

- How do Jesus' words connect today with your own experience of prayer, answered and 'unanswered'?
- What does it mean to you, to pray with faith and trust?

Challenges

- Take time to 'knock on a door' with God today?
- Might you do something today to be an answer to someone else's asking and searching today? A letter? A word? A gift?

Thursday, 18th March
Seeing true

Jesus said, 'Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness.'
Luke 11.34

For Jesus, the eye is like the gateway through which things enter and shape our lives. In that sense, a healthy eye leads to a healthy life. He is asking, how do we 'see' what is around us.

Questions

- What do you think Jesus is saying in this verse?
- How can we see truly and not become blinded by the many thousands of different images that surround us today?

Challenges

- Chose an image that reflects something true, beautiful or good. Take time to let it speak to you and 'feed your soul'.
- Do something today to make the world a more beautiful place for someone else to see.