

# The Week

week starting 26 19

100

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Welcome

Have you ever judged someone by their appearance and later realised you'd got them completely wrong? Share stories.

## Worship

- **Read Acts 1: 7 - 11**
- Ponder what this strange story means in your heart.
- How does the theme of ascension inspire you to live your life better?
- Share your reflections.

## Word

### **Read Ephesians 1: 17 - 23**

- Describe the tone and feel of Paul's prayer.
- How does it compare with our prayers?
- What is Paul asking for?
- What is the prayer about?

**Enjoy reading John 9: 1 - 34 together.** Maybe one person could read the whole story; maybe you could allocate sections to different readers. Or you could listen to David Suchet reading it at <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/John.9>

- How would you describe the tone and feel of this story?
- What is it trying to teach us, do you think?

### **Read John 9: 35 - 41**

- Is Jesus concerned with physical blindness or with spiritual blindness? Which matters most, and why?
- Why does the man born blind worship Jesus?

*Consider verses 39 - 41. The enigmatic saying of verse 39 describe the effect of Jesus' judgement on two groups.*

**Group A** are those who are initially blind but because of Jesus' judgement learn to see.

**Group B** are those who are initially able to see, but because of Jesus' judgement become blind.

- In this story, who is in group A? In what sense could they first of all see? In what sense have they become blind?
- In the gospels, who is in group B? In what sense are they first of all blind? In what sense can they now see?
- Which group are you in?
- What does it mean to look with a heavenly vision at a hurting world? What qualities would there be in the way that we would see?

### Witness

- Maybe listen to the famous *Streets of London* song.
- Find some practical steps you could take to help you see the people around you through the eyes of Christ.
- Pray for one another this week in a manner inspired by the prayer in Ephesians 1. If you keep a journal, you could write the prayer there, adapting it to refer to the people in your group.