

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

Welcome

- Share something good that has happened for you in the last 48 hours.

Worship

- Give thanks to God for all the good things that happen for the individuals of your group.
- Read Psalm 8 together.

Word

Read Matthew 28: 16 - 20

- Jesus meets the disciples on a mountain. Matthew tells us that, when they saw him, they divided into two groups: the worshippers and the doubters (verse 17). Why does Matthew tell us that some doubted? Wouldn't it make a better story to tell us that everyone worshipped? Speculate as to why some doubted.
- Verse 18 shows Jesus making a bold claim. If 'all authority' has been given to Jesus, why is the world still in such a mess? How does Jesus exercise authority still today?
- Does Jesus have authority over your life?
- Verse 19 begins with a 'therefore' (NIV.) This verse, then, explains the impact of Jesus' authority. Explore how Jesus' authority is exercised, according to this verse.
- How comfortable are you with being called 'a disciple'? The word 'disciple' means student or learner. What would improve your learning?
- Baptism is to be given 'in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' To understand the Trinity completely is perhaps beyond human ability, but what might it mean to *live in the experience* of the Trinity?
- Share what your baptism means to you. If you have not been baptised, you could discuss with the group whether you might like to receive baptism, remembering that it's not presented as an option here, but as an expectation.

- Looking at verse 20, are there any parts of Jesus' teaching you find difficult to obey? Help each other to step towards obedience.

Witness

Remember the five-finger way of holding on to Jesus' promise,

**I
AM
WITH
YOU
ALWAYS**

- Practice this in idle moments throughout the week.
- If you get tempted away from Jesus this week, remember to call the AA! **All Authority** has been given to Jesus. Commit yourself to living his way. When you do that, your soul is invincible.
- Why do you love life at Hearsall? Find a way of sharing that with someone else. Don't worry about how they might respond: just share this good aspect of your life. Why wouldn't you?