

The Week

week starting 30 6 19

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

Welcome

- Give an example of something that was better about life when you were a kid.
- Might you view the past through rose-tinted spectacles? What was not so good about life back then?

Worship

Read or sing or listen to the Sydney Carter hymn *One more step along the world I go* (BPW 356) Here's a cheery version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhtSwx7cpTY>

- What challenges does this song bring you?
- What invitations does it offer?
- Read the song as a prayer.

Word

Read 2 Kings 2:1 - 8

- How does Elisha feel about Elijah?

Read 2 Kings 2:9-12

- In spite of his pain at losing Elijah, Elisha has hope for life without his physical presence. Describe in your own words a healthy attitude to the past and the future.

Read 2 Kings 2:13 -18

- It seems that Elijah's spirit is indeed resting on Elisha. Who is accepting that a new era has begun? Who is clinging to the past?
- Would you be most like Elisha or the company of prophets?

Read Galatians 5:1-2

- Presumably not many of us feel inclined to be circumcised and live under the Jewish law. Is there an equivalent temptation for Christians today? Why do we prefer rules to freedom?

Read Galatians 5:13-25

- What does it mean to live by the Spirit as opposed to the Law?
- What does it mean to keep in step with the Spirit?
- How can we encourage each other to do this?

Prayer

- Discuss together how today's study might impinge on our developing plans at Hearsall.
- Pray that God will lead the Deacons and the Church Meeting as we consider the future of our community, mission and buildings.
- Be poised to pray on Wednesday, the day of our church meeting.
- In your journal, note down any special verses that strike you or any thoughts you may have about the direction God is leading us in. If possible, add them to the notebook in the chapel or share them in the church meeting.