

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

Welcome

Have you ever thrown a pot? How did you get on?

Worship

Let each one of you spend some time silently reading through Psalm 139. Then, give people a chance to share what has struck them from the Psalm.

Word

Read Jeremiah 18: 1 - 11

- Some people would quote Jeremiah 29:11 as a proof that God has a good plan for their life. What do these verses from Jeremiah 18 suggest about the nature of God's planning?

Read Luke 14: 25 - 27

- Most of us would initially react strongly against this teaching of Jesus. But what could Jesus really mean by it?
- What does it mean to 'carry our cross' as followers of Jesus? Can you think of any specific examples of when being true to your faith has felt like a loss, a sacrifice or even a kind of dying?

Read Luke 14: 28 - 30

A woman receives a gift from her husband of an all-expenses paid trip through the jungles of Borneo. Although the gift is free, what price would the wife have to pay in order to benefit from the gift?

- What does it cost us to live as a Christian? How can there be a cost, when the gift is free? (Romans 6:23)
- Why would we pay that price?

Read Luke 14:31 - 32

- Does this parable shed any further light on the cost of following Jesus, or does it essentially make the same point?

Read Luke 14:33

- What does it mean to 'give up everything' to follow Christ?
- Why would anyone do that?

Response

- Are you prepared to allow Christ to be Lord of all you are and all you have?
- Why would you do that?
- Write down your thoughts in your journal - honestly expressing how you feel about his radical call. Or discuss it with a friend. Or ponder it on a walk. Or write it into a song or a poem.