

# The Week

week starting 8 3 20

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

## Welcome

- Tell us about a time when you started a new job or role. What made you feel insecure? What reassured you?

## Worship

### **Read Psalm 121**

- Where do you look for God's help in difficult times ?
- What hymns or songs are suggested by this Psalm? Read them or sing them or listen to them.

## Word

### **Read Genesis 12: 1 - 4**

- Abram left the security of Haran, where he had live all his life, not knowing where God was leading him. Has God ever called you to leave the place of security, however comfortable or otherwise that was, not knowing what lay ahead or where you were going?

### **Read Roman 4: 1 - 5**

- How do you understand this passage with particular reference to the relationship between faith and deeds?

### **Read John 3: 1 – 17**

*Nicodemus had grown up through an education system that suggests that the conventional was God-given and must not be questioned. He managed to keep an open mind in such a claustrophobic atmosphere.*

- How do we keep open minds when our “conventions” are questioned ?
- Jesus challenged the customary practices of his day and upset the temple authorities. How would we react if during a Communion Service someone stood up and challenged our use of diced bread and individual cups?
- Think of any other conventional ways of doings things in church life. Do they help us or hinder us in our mission? Would we be willing to let them go?

## Response

- Imagine what it would be like to attend our church for the first time after having very little experience of Christianity. What would puzzle people? How radically do we need to change to become more accessible in our less religious age? Either write about these things in your journal or meet a friend to talk it through.
- Invite someone to church who is completely unused to religion. Tell them it's a market research experiment. Get them to feedback to you afterwards everything they found odd, incomprehensible, or helpful.