

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

Welcome

- What is your first memory of Hearsall Baptist Church? Share your impressions.

Worship

- Read 1 Peter 2:1 - 10
- God places us in communities; for all of us one of those communities is Hearsall. Find something about Hearsall that you thank God for beginning with every letter of the alphabet. Try to connect some of these with the 1 Peter reading.
- Give thanks to God.

Word

Read John 14: 1 - 3

- Why might the hearts of the disciples have been troubled?
- What comfort does Jesus offer?
- To what does 'My Father's house' refer?
- Do you find comfort in the promises of these verses?

Read John 14: 4 - 6

Discuss these possible interpretations of verse 6:

1. Jesus is indeed the only way so we must know Jesus explicitly if we are to be saved.
2. Jesus shows us that it's impossible to earn our way to God. Accepting that God is merciful, loving and forgiving is the only way to be right with God. Any person who accepts this, even if they've never heard of Jesus, is therefore saved.
3. John, as he wrote the gospel, was so overwhelmed by Jesus that he could not imagine any other spiritual path was valid. As a doting husband says his wife is the only possible woman in the whole world for him, so John says Jesus is the only possible way to God. It's a devotional, rather than a dogmatic statement.

Which do you find most helpful or convincing? Can you suggest another way of reading this verse?

Read John 14: 7 - 11

- What is the relationship between Jesus and the Father?
- In what ways do we see the Father in our day?

Read John 14: 12 - 14

- How on earth can Christians do greater things than Jesus?
- What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?
- Why do we feel our prayers are not always answered? Try to see this from God's perspective.

Response

- Ask God to show you how to pray in Jesus' name.