

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

Welcome

- Tell us about a time when you failed to follow advice and afterwards wished you had done so.

Worship

- Read Psalm 96.
- Does it remind you of any songs or hymns?
- Find a hymn book or song book and read or sing a song or two that this Psalm has brought to mind.

Word

- This week we are invited to imagine the story in our prayers.
- Use opening prayer: *Lord I am here to praise, reverence and serve you. As I reflect on the Scripture, help me to understand more deeply the work you are doing in my soul; help me sense more closely the love you have for me and for all you have made; and help me respond to your call to serve you in the world at large. For your glory's sake I ask it. Amen.*
- Have one person read John 2:13 - 25 slowly, aloud.
- Let each person look through the passage prayerfully for a couple of minutes.
- Have a second person read the same passage aloud.
- Let each person try to imagine the scene in their hearts. Use all your senses as you consider what you can see, hear, taste, smell or feel. Consider who you are in this scene - an unnamed on-looker, a disciple, a trader, a pilgrim, a Jewish official or someone else...
- After five or ten minutes, a leader invites everyone to consider what gift they are seeking from God in their life at the moment.
- Allow a further five minutes or so for people to have a private conversation with the Lord about the matters raised by this prayer time.
- Afterwards give people an opportunity to share something of their experience, ensuring that no one is pressurised to share.

- Finally discuss verses 23 - 25. Does Jesus entrust himself and his work to us now? How do you feel about that?

Response

- Consider beginning an occasional spiritual journal. A first entry could be a response to today's meditation.
- Take some action to reflect whatever has come up for you in today's meditation.
- Jesus entrusts himself and his work to us. Choose one area of your life where you do not live by Jesus' values and teaching. Plan some definite actions to begin to put that right.