

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

Welcome

- **‘You can do anything if you only believe in yourself.’**
Discuss the merits and demerits of this sentiment, often found online in some form or other.

Worship

- 2 Corinthians 4:7 says **‘we have this treasure in jars of clay...’** In a couple of minutes of silence ponder this metaphor. What is the jar of clay? What is the treasure within? What specific ideas do these thoughts bring about your own life?
- Give everyone who wishes an opportunity to share their thoughts.
- Thank God for the treasure he entrusts to us.

Word

Read John 3: 22 - 24

- What was the meaning of John’s baptism? (See Luke 3:3.)
- Jesus himself was not baptising according to John 4:2, so his disciples were baptising. How might their baptism differ from John’s?
- Jesus offers another form of baptism according to John 1: 32 - 33. Do you think you have received this baptism?

Read John 3: 25 - 28

- We can only speculate about the details of the argument mentioned in verse 25. Many of the things we argue about today will one day seem pointless. Can you suggest something that seems very important to church people now, but is likely to be irrelevant in days to come?
- According to these verses, why does Jesus have so much more to give than John?

Read John 3: 29 - 30

- In John’s metaphor, who is the bride, who is the bridegroom and who is the friend?

- In straightforward language, what does John say about his unique position in the plan of salvation?
- And where does this leave you and I? (Remember the saying in Luke 7:28.)
- Does verse 30 apply just as much to you and I as it did to John?

Read John 3: 31 - 36

- What do these verses say about the Son? Why does he have the authority he has?
- What must people do to benefit from Jesus' ministry?
- Discuss also what the implications are for those who do not respond to Jesus, according to these verses. Does this text imply they are lost forever, or is there still hope for them?
- Consider verse 34. What limits or boundaries do people put on their understanding of the Spirit? Do you put such limits or boundaries on the Spirit's work in your own life?

Response

- If you began an occasional spiritual journal, share how you are getting on.
- Write down the barriers to the Spirit's work that exist in your own life and write down 1, 2 or 3 steps to overcoming them. You could write these thoughts in your journal.