

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

Welcome

- What's your worst performance in an exam or test? How did you get over it? Share stories!

Worship

Have a candle lit and some music playing.

- Read Psalm 27: 1 - 5
- Verse 4 says 'One thing I ask of the Lord...'
- What's the **one thing** you would ask from God now?
- As you listen to the music and reread these words, try to answer that question.
- If you wish, share you answers with one another, and pray for each other.

Word

Read John 7: 37 - 52

*Many **questions** are asked in our reading. The questions in verses 41, 42 and 52 concern where Jesus 'came from'.*

- Have you ever been dismissed because of where you 'come from'? What prejudices lie behind this question?
- Where **did** Jesus come from? (You could consult Luke 2: 4 - 7 & John 6:38.)

The passage shows people trying to put a label on Jesus.

- What labels have been put on you that don't really suit you?
- Why do we humans need to label each other? What are the advantages and disadvantages of labelling?
- In our reading, what labels are people trying to put on Jesus, either explicitly or implicitly? How accurate is each label?
- What is the effect of each label?
- How would you label Jesus?
- Which characters see beyond the labelling system in this reading? What can we learn from them?

Now focus on verse 27.

- Beyond labels, beyond theological controversy, beyond geography, beyond race, what is the simple message of Jesus?

Response

- Discuss or consider how can we simplify our gospel sharing. Is social action sufficient, or do we sometimes need to express the gospel in words?