

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

## Welcome

- Share stories about your attempts to speak another language - preferably funny ones!

## Worship

- Read Psalm 117
- As a group, come up with a version of the Psalm that uses none of the same words in the translation you read from.
- Have a couple of minutes of silence, reflecting on your Psalm.
- Read your Psalm as an act of worship.
- If you wish, reflect on what you gained from this creative experience.

## Word

### **Read Acts 6: 1 - 4**

*This story is set in Jerusalem. It seems that city had two types of Jews. Some had lived abroad for a long time and had got into the habit of speaking Greek. Presumably they had absorbed something of foreign culture too. Others had lived in Jerusalem for generations and spoke Hebrew.*

- Think of some modern examples of different language groups in the same city experiencing tension or misunderstanding.
- Why would widows need special food distributions?
- Did the first Christians invent this or were they following established customs? (Cf Deuteronomy 14: 28 - 29.)
- Speculate as to why the food distribution seemed to favour the Hebrew-speaking widows.
- What was the solution to the problem?

### **Read Acts 6: 5 - 7**

*Some regard this story as the first example of deacons being appointed in the church. Some serve by organising practical matters like food distributions; others give spiritual leadership.*

- How seriously does the church take this issue?
- What effect on the church's mission does this have?
- What is the ultimate reason for having 'deacons'?

- However, perhaps people don't always fit into one role! What became of the 'deacon' Stephen? What do we learn from his story?

### Response

- Are you more a food-distribution organiser or a preacher of the word?
- This week write a letter to God in your journal about this. Need things be so neatly defined? Might God be calling you to grow in your service?
- Review what Hearsall already does to foster peace between the nations.
- Are there any ways in which we can increase our impact in this area?