

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

Welcome

- What arrangements do you have for coping with a power cut in your home?
- Share memories of power cuts you have experienced.

Worship

- If you wish, light a candle.
- Read Psalm 36
- Share any thoughts this Psalm might have inspired in you
- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Word

Moses was told that God's name was simply 'I AM' (Exodus 3:14).

John portrays Jesus dramatically making several 'I AM...' statements that strongly suggest Jesus' divinity.

- How many of these 'I AM...' statements can you recall?

Read Jesus' words in John 8:12.

- Jesus begins with one of these iconic I AM sayings. What might he mean by saying 'I am the light of the world'?
- The second half of verse 12 expands the thought. If you haven't already answered this, consider what it could mean to have 'the light of life' as opposed to 'walking in darkness'.
- Look back over the last 24 hours. Have you been walking in light or darkness? You could share in pairs if you like.

Your edition of the Bible might well express the confusion about the story that precedes this I AM statement.

- Speculate as to why the story of the woman 'caught in adultery' might have found it difficult to get a recognised place in the gospels.

Read John 8: 1 - 11.

The story seems to have settled here in John 8, and an ancient editor has therefore wedded it to the 'I am the light of the world' statement.

- What do you like or dislike about the story?
- The teachers of the law and the Pharisees have set a trap for Jesus. Discuss how the trap aimed to catch Jesus between two po-

sitions he could not accept & explain how Jesus escapes their trap.

- What does it tell us about male power in the ancient world?
- How relevant is it to an understanding of male power in today's world?
- What application does all this have today? Where are today's self-righteous guardians of morality demanding harsh treatment of others?
- How does this story and this teaching help us to craft a way of responding that is both just and merciful?
- How does it add to your understanding of John 8:12?

Response

'Let anyone who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...'

- Find a way of remembering these words as you go about life next week. You could carry a stone... You could write the words on a card... You could learn them by heart...
- Look out for moments when this seems relevant. Try to follow the teaching.
- If you are keeping a journal, reflect on how you got on.
- Has this approach helped you to walk in the light? If so, how?