

Study Three:

Additional Material:

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17 and also in Exodus 34. The people had broken the commandments so God had Moses receive the Commandments again as recorded in Exodus 34.

As well as the Exodus passages, read Deuteronomy 5.

From time to time you hear people question the relevance of the Ten Commandments. How important are the Ten Commandments to you?

Why is it important to keep the Commandments in modern society?

The Bible contains several call passages. Some of them are:

Moses - Exodus 3

Isaiah- Isaiah 6

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 9:9-13

John 1:35-51

Acts 9:1-19

What do these passages say to us in 2018?

What impact do they have on our call and our faith?

It was Bonhoeffer who used the term “the cost of discipleship”. What does that term mean for you as you live out your faith?

Many of our Churches are cosy and comfortable. How can our congregations understand the cost of discipleship and show to the community we are not there for our comfort, but for the proclamation of the Gospel despite the cost.

In the Gospel reading Jesus states that those who want to follow him must deny self and follow Jesus.

What are some of the ways you are denying yourself. If this is a reality for you this Lent share this denying is enhancing your faith walk.

Making a Difference:

As Christians we are called to live as disciples of Christ. We are called to live according to the will of God. It is not always easy, but we must never forget that Christ is with us. Share a time when you were able to truly live as a disciple of Christ and the blessings that you experienced.

It has been said that you can be so heavenly minded that you are of no earthly use. It has also been said that you can be so human minded that you are of no heavenly use. We need to serve Christ while here on earth, but we must show Christ's love and grace. Share how you try and keep that the balance.

Micah 6:8 “to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with you God”. This Biblical verse is often quoted and some Christian songs are based on this verse. As Christians we called to be different. This text calls us to be different. In what ways can we live into this Biblical verse and make a difference.

Have you considered:

As background Read Psalm 22:

Let us never forget that this Psalm, like most Psalms covers the full gambit of human experience.

Have you considered how the Church can reach out to people, who like our Lord cried out “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” (Verse one)

Likewise how do we as a Church respond to people who say that God does not answer their prayers. (Verse two)

The Psalmist states that God continues holy, the people trusted and were saved. (Verses 3-5) In what ways do these three verses fit your understanding of God. Share of your views.

Then the Psalmist utters a description of himself (verses 6 & 7). The next few verses highlight the challenges of life and then in the following verse the Psalmist acknowledges that God is his helper and aid.

Share how God has been present to help you when life is tough.

Then in verse 24 onwards the Psalmist says we are to praise the Lord and that the Lord does not despise or abhorred people and then at verse 31, “he saved my life for himself”.

Have you considered the comfort that verse brings people? How can we share that comfort?

Have you considered that many congregations have lost two if not three generations from their worshipping numbers. This loss has other flow on effects. Several decades ago you could assume that people would have some biblical and Christian knowledge. This is not so today. So the final verse of the Psalm is certainly worth considering.

“This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation; his righteousness declared to a people yet to be unborn, that he has done it”

Consider how the Church, the body of Christ, can make the God known or declared to those yet unborn, as well as to those who are born but do not know the righteousness of God?