

On the Way with Jesus

Study 1 The Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

Welcome

Have you ever been taken to a secret destination? How did it feel and what was it like?

Worship

You may wish to read and reflect on Psalm 63 – A wilderness psalm of David

And/or use this song [I Will Say : Geraldine Latty](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LYT7qsgOQ0>

Word

Read Matthew 3:16 – 4:11

Q. As he was led into the desert what two things was Jesus assured of from his baptism?

- You may wish to draw parallels with Israel (Deut:14:1,2) and with ourselves (1John 3:1a, Ro 8:16).

Q. How do you think such assurances would have helped Jesus in what he was about to face? Can we be similarly assured when tested?

Q. Why do you think that Jesus was led into the desert? Does Deut 8:2-5 shed any light on this or on why we face times of testing?

Q. How does the devil begin his attacks in v 3 and v6? Why do you think he does this? (Recall your answer to the first Q). (There may be several answers to this – to cast doubt on the claim (similar to Genesis 3:1) or possibly to challenge him with choices to reveal what type of Son of God he would be.)

Q. How does Jesus respond to each of the three tests?

Q. What does this reveal about the kind of Son of God he will be?

Q. How might the identity of a) the church b) a child of God be challenged:

You may want to complete these sentences:

- If you are the church
- If you are a child of God

Try to come up with some responses to the challenges.

Witness

Pray for those who have newly started or will soon be starting new roles or leading new courses within the church – Parish Nurse, Parish Administrator, CAP Debt Centre Manager, CAP Life Skills Manager. Pray that they might know that they are children of God and that they may show this in all that they do.

On the Way with Jesus

Study 2 The Upper Room

John 13:1-17

Welcome

What event or occasion have you most anticipated? Did it fulfil your expectations?

Worship

I will offer up my life – Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkzHwz2eLE>

Word

Read John 13:1-17

Scene setting:

Where was it happening?

When was it happening?

Who was involved?

Re-read v1-3

Q. Who are 'his own' in this passage? Now?

Q. In v1 and 3 John writes 'Jesus knew'..... . What did he know? Why does John want us to know this?

Q. How does this knowledge pre-empt what happens in this passage and for what is to follow?

Read v 4 and 5. Imagine you were one of the disciples other than Peter or Judas.

Q. What are you thinking and feeling when Jesus begins to wash the first pair of feet? When he washes your feet? Why?

- Now think of Judas Iscariot and ask the same questions.

Q. Why does Jesus wash his feet even though he knows Judas is going to betray him? What is the challenge to us?

Read about Peter's turn v 6 – 11

Q What are you thinking when Jesus starts to foot wash?

Q Why does he object initially?

Q What is Jesus trying to teach Peter, and the other disciples in his response to Peter's two statements?

Q. Do we need our feet washed daily by Jesus? What could this/does this look like?

Witness

Give thanks for the hidden acts of service that occur at St. Mary's and for those that do them.

Are there acts of service that that you could do – what are the obstacles?

Are there some of 'our own' that you find difficult or unwilling to serve? Pray that Jesus will soften your heart and create a way to change that relationship.

On the Way with Jesus

Study 3 God's Tender Care Col 3:12-17, John 19:25b-27

Welcome

Think about a longstanding relationship outside of family.
What qualities has made it last?

Worship

Before the throne of God above

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LULK2nZ6sCc>

Word

Setting the scene: The reading starts with a therefore so it is worth taking a step back to see the context. In the previous section Paul is urging the people of God to put to death, take off, aspects of their life before becoming Christians.

Read Colossians 3:11

Q. What point(s) is Paul making here? (Look at the range of descriptors Paul uses).

Q. What does it mean that Christ is all, and in all.

Read Colossians 3:12-14

Q. Who are we?

Q. What are we to wear?

Q. How do we develop these virtues?

Q. What else are we to do? Why?

Q. What is our overcoat? What does it do?

Read v 15-17

Q. What other things are we called to do in these verses?
What is Paul's reasoning?

Q. What does it mean to let the peace of God rule in your hearts in a church context?

Q. Does v16a just apply to the vicar and other clergy? If not, why not, and how and when would we do it?

Q. Thinking about our church how good are we at:

- Bearing with each other (v13)
- Forgiving each other (v13)
- Teaching and admonishing each other (v16)

Where are the opportunities to do these things?

Q. What else could we (the church) do to encourage the development of good and strong relationships within the church? What are the barriers for our church? How do we overcome these?

Witness

Pray for the deepening and strengthening of relationships within the church community.

On the Way with Jesus

Study 4 The Tomb

John 11:1-45

Welcome

Describe a time when you waited expectantly for something.

Was it worth the wait?

Worship

Mighty to save

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j35UKLF14>

Word

Read through the entire passage slowly (John 11:1-45) noting the different people involved in this account.

v 1-6

Q What is your response when you hear of someone in need?

Q What was Jesus's response?

Q Why does Jesus wait for two days? Does it surprise you?

How do you reconcile this with the love that he had for Lazarus and his sisters?

Q Does it provide any encouragement for the times when God does not seem to be answering our prayers or meeting our needs?

v7-16

Q Why were the disciples reluctant to go to Bethany?

Q. If it was dangerous why didn't Jesus just heal him from a distance?

Q. What do you think Jesus means in vs 9 and 10? What can we learn from it?

Q. Is it easy to misunderstand/misinterpret God's word?

Why? What steps can we take to help prevent this?

Q. Why was Jesus glad that he was not there when Lazarus died? What did he want the disciples to learn?

Q. What do you make of Thomas's statement?

v17-27,39-40

Q. How do you interpret Martha's greeting of Jesus in v 21 – angry, disappointed, hopeful, a statement of faith? Why?

Q. What can we learn from the dialogue between Martha and Jesus? What did she learn? How did it reflect her faith and her understanding of his identity? How do we know she had more to learn?

v28-46

Q. How was Mary's response similar/different to Martha's? Why? What can we learn from this?

Q. How did the Jews respond in v 36,37? Why? How do their responses mirror those in society today?

Q. Even though he knew he would raise Lazarus from the dead Jesus wept. How is this an encouragement for us?

Q. How did the people respond? Why the differences? How does this encourage/prepare us for the responses we get when we share the gospel?

Witness

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel over the Easter period. Also for the message as it is broadcast in the media both in this country and overseas.