

w/b 29th November 2015 - Finishing Strong

Cell group notes

It was so exciting to see the children serving us in church for our first apprentice Sunday. Thank you to those who let their children take part and all those who took the time to show the children what to do. We hope to have more in the future so watch this space.

Your race

- How did you start your Christian race? If you haven't started your race yet, you can just say I'm not there yet or explain where you are on your journey towards God. (eg just looking, still got questions, almost there etc)
- Pick a single word to describe your race up to this point. (examples: steady, uneven, growing disappointing, rocky, exciting etc)

Read Hebrews 12 1-3

- What are we instructed to do in verse 1? Why is the word "persevere" important?
- Who are we called to fix our eyes on during the race in verse 2?
- How does fixing our eyes on Jesus help us in our race?
- Looking back at chapter 11 are there any "Heroes of Faith" that particularly inspire you or are a surprise that they are there. Why?

Here is the list;

Abel, Enoch, Noah, - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – Joseph, Moses – Joshua, Rahab – Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah – David – Samuel and the prophets

Pass the baton

Read 1 Kings 19 v 9 – 21

- How did God end up speaking to Elisha?

Consider how we look for God to speak to us. Are we only looking for the exciting earthquake or are we prepared to listen for the quiet whisper?

- What 3 things did God ask Elijah to do?
- How do you think that made Elijah feel?

Elijah taking off his coat and putting it on Elisha was symbolic of Elisha becoming Elijah's successor.

- What did Elisha do in verse 21 and what was it also symbolic of?

Andy described our race as a relay race, rather than a sprint or a marathon.

- Who is God raising up for you to pass the baton on to? (If you aren't sure, pray that God will show you)

What if I stumble?

We all have moments when we stumble or fall. Is anyone willing to share how they stumbled and, more importantly, got back up again? (Don't worry if no one is)

The church has, in the past, all too quickly looked down on and disqualified Christians (particularly in leadership or some sort of prominent position). Let us never turn on those that fall, but cry with them and encourage them back onto their feet.

Leadership can, at times, be a very lonely position. In your personal times of prayer, pray for our leaders and Christians in the public eye.

Return of the prodigals

Lastly, who are the people who come to mind when we talk about the prodigals coming back? Make a list and pray for them now in faith that God **WILL** do this. Pray that God would change their heart and bring them back to His family and show us if there is anything that we can do to help make this happen.