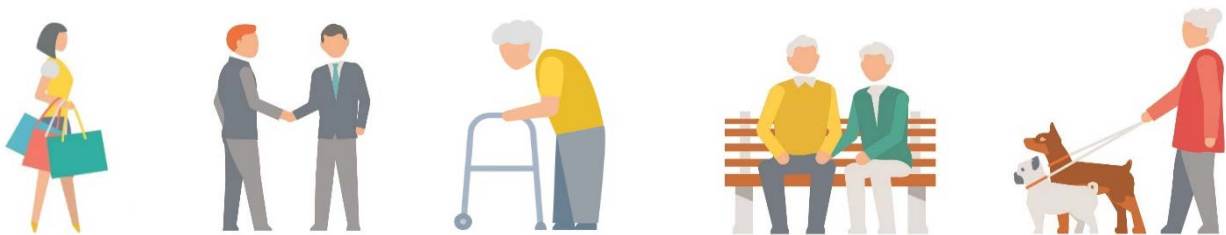


Calling all God's People #EverydayFaith



Accompanying Notes for Lent Course



Calling all God's People Lent course

Week 1: What does Faith mean in everyday life?

You will need: Star Shapes, pinboard, drawing pins, large arrow drawn on A3 paper.

Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. Christians around the world use this time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and what that means for us. Some Christians choose to give something up during Lent to help them remember this.

Suggested Questions for Discussion

What does Lent mean for you?

How do you plan to make the most of Lent this year?

Read Philippians 2. 1 - 16

If a journey begins with a single step, what are the steps of the journey for Jesus, (both downwards and upwards) that are celebrated in this ancient hymn? (vs 6 - 11).

Activity: Diagram/image of an arrow that everyone can write on

How can we, like the Philippian Christians, shine like stars? (vs 15)

Activity: Create a star board ~ give stars and pens to everyone ask them to write their own name on one and a friend or family member on another collect them all and pin to the board.

What have been the steps of your journey with Jesus? Draw them below.

Activity: Draw a timeline for your life, from birth to the present time, which marks all the significant points on your own spiritual journey. You may wish to share this with one another at the start of next session.

How did you notice that God was at work in you? Did anyone notice at school, at work, at home or with your friends?

Read pages 7 and 8 from the book Calling all God's People.

Suggestion. Pray this for one another everyday this week

“All sorts of people support the life of worshipping communities in all kind of ways. All sorts of people share in God’s mission in the world, in all kinds of ways....We are all invited to join in with God’s life-affirming transforming work” (pg 7-8).

Pray this for one another every day this week.

Optional Activity: Write each person’s name on a piece of paper, put them in the middle, take a name and pray for that person every day this week.

Week 2: Who does God call?

You will need: paper and pens for all. Printed card with the Prayer printed on

Last week we were introduced to the journey of everyday faith which begins with God's saving actions. Today we consider our response.

Read 1 Peter 2.1-9

Discuss the following:

a) *How are God's people described in verse 5? Verse 9? Verse 10?*

b) *What are God's people called to do? (vs 9)*

Activity- put verse 9 in your own words,

The grey boxes in chapter two contain reflections by individual Christians.

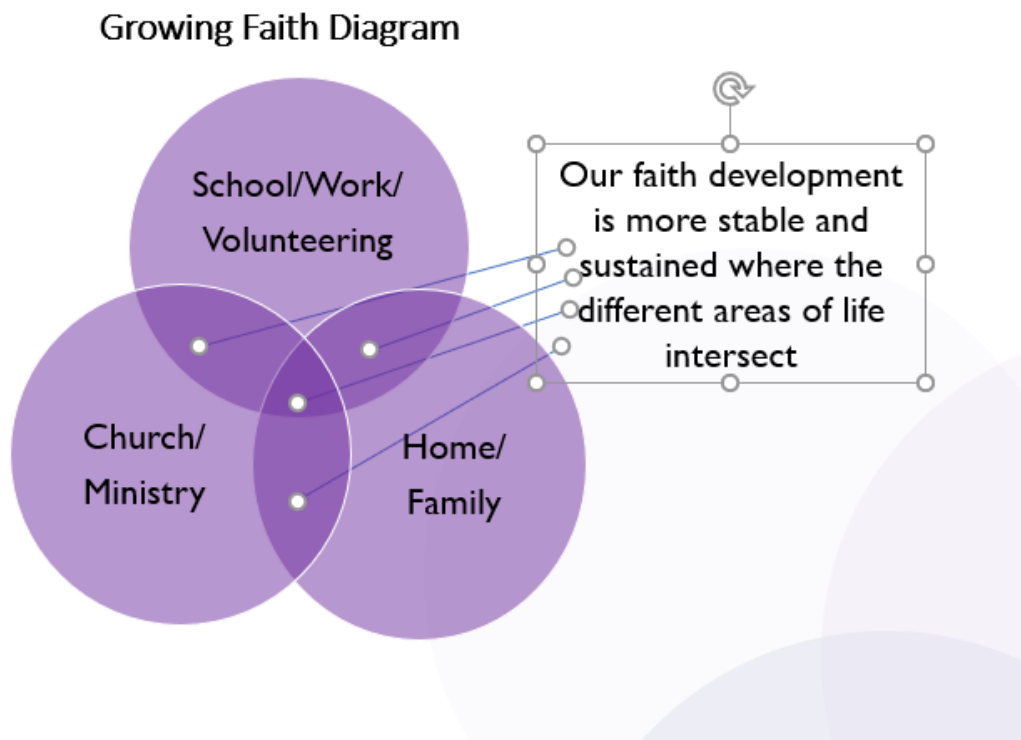
What does Melanie say about her faith in the bookshop? (Page 10)

How does God help Remie with his work for London Underground? (Page 11)

How does being a Christian help Anne-Marie with tricky situations at work? (Page 12)

Imagine yourself at work or school. Which story do you connect with the most and why?

Diagram: Growing Faith triangle (SCHOOL/WORK/VOLUNTEERING, HOME/FAMILY, CHURCH/MINISTRY)



Look at verse 9 in your own words again. How can you show this in each area of your life?

In the traditional Church of England Book of Common Prayer (from 1662) there is a specific prayer (the Second Collect for Good Friday), which says:

Prayer	<i>Suggested action</i>
Almighty and Everlasting God,	<i>Hands point to the sky</i>
by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified:	<i>Hands out to point to the church/each other</i>
Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry,	<i>Hands out in front</i>
may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.	<i>Gesture "handing out" with hands</i>

Try saying this all together using the hand actions

What stands out for you? How can this prayer help with your own prayers this week?

Optional Activity: Pray this prayer at home this week (HAVE A PRINTED CARD FOR THEM TO TAKE)

Week 3: It's your call?

You will need: an A3 outline of a person.

Read Romans 12. 1 - 8.

How does God ask us to worship in verses 1-2?

God gives gifts to everybody (verses 3-8).

Activity: *What are the gifts listed in verses 4-8?* Use your large diagram of a person and write the gifts on it together.

What gifts might God have given you (either from this list or other ones?) Add them to the diagram.

Think about your family and church. What gifts have you noticed in other people that you could add?

How would you describe your part in the body of Christ?

The Ely 2025 Strategy encourages us to be a visible and generous people of Jesus Christ. How can we do this together?

Activity: Using the Calling All God's People Booklet page 14 It's your call: read through and discuss the questions and activity on page 14.

Optional exercise: Consider for yourself and answer the following questions in a journal.

- a) *What opportunities have I been given to serve God?*
- b) *What challenges do I face because of this?*
- c) *What are my limitations?*
- d) *How can I receive all of this by faith with thanksgiving?*

Week 4: How should we respond to God's call?

You will need: printed case studies from purple boxes in Calling All God's People

Read Mark 3. 13 - 19.

What is the first thing the disciples chosen to do? (vs 13)

Why is this important?

Christians throughout the centuries have patterned their lives on Jesus, using disciplines of daily prayer.

How do you like to pray? Is there a pattern?

"Whatever we may be sent out to do in his name must flow from being with him"
(Page 15)

Like the twelve apostles (disciples) were sent out, what things might Jesus be asking you to do?

'Discipleship is about receiving before it is about giving.'

What does this mean?

Why is this important?

How can we do this?

Activity: Share the case studies in the purple boxes between members of the group. They are examples of how God's kingdom transforms communities.

Reflect back to the group on how God's kingdom transformed each community?

Optional Activity: Look at the "Do try this at home" on page 20.

Talk about the patterns of your home life- are there any changes that would help you to support each other in being disciples?

Week 5: Are we all called to ministry?

You will need: a large piece of paper and some post-it notes

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

Do any words jump out to you?

What might God be saying to you?

Activity: map all the different ways that people serve in your church on post it notes and put them on your large piece of paper

Which of these are ministry?

Did you know, they all are!

Read verses 11-13 again and add these ministries to your diagram(if not already added).

How do these different gifts and ministries support people in their everyday relationship with Jesus?

Some ministries are for a life-time. However, most ministries are taken up for a season and then laid down again afterwards. Is there an area of ministry that you would like to explore? Or is there an area of ministry you would like to lay down?

Read verses 14-16 again

What does the Bible say ministry is for?

What steps can we take to nurture our confidence for ministry in our churches and communities?

Read the two green boxes on pages 22-23.

What do Andy and Mark have in common?

Optional activity: During the week, read pages 26 & 27 and try it out.

Next week: we encourage you to conclude this series by having some food and a time to share together

Week 6: The command to 'Go'

You will need: A copy for each person of the download you have chosen for a "timeline"

Jesus prays this prayer on the night when he had the Last Supper and was about to be arrested.

Read John 17.1-4

What did Jesus come to do?

How do you think Jesus felt that evening? How difficult do you think this was for him? Why?

How does it make you feel that Jesus came to earth, prayed this prayer, died and rose again for you?

Read John 17.20-24

What does Jesus pray for his people?

What does this mean?

Going back to the triangle diagram(below). *How can you show this in each area of your life?*

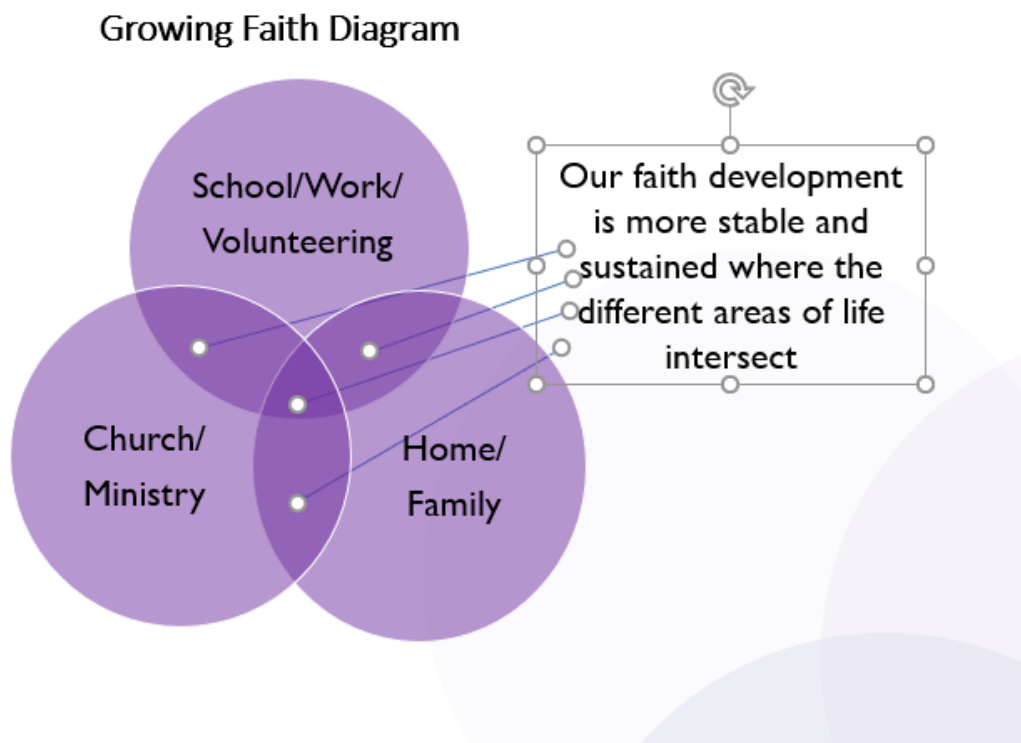


Diagram: Events of Holy Week

Look at these links and decide which might be the most helpful to download for your group

<https://www.learnreligions.com/holy-week-timeline-700618>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/bg3-blog/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/holy-week-timeline2.png>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/178666310199144207/>

Look at the diagram. *As we head into Easter, how can this help you to remember what Jesus did, what it means and how we can reflect that in each part of our lives?*

Activity: as you eat, discuss:

What have you taken away from this series?

What difference has it made to you?

What can you do next?

What next? Resources to consider

1. How do we enable the church to nurture confident faith? Check out the webpage for #Everydayfaith.
2. **The Way of Life Booklet** is used by many in our diocese as a tool for developing a personal rule of life; nurturing confidence in devotion, holiness, witness, service and justice. What are the possibilities for using this resource be used in our own context?
3. How can I find out more about my own calling? Recommended books are found on page 30. Also, speak to someone on your church ministry team or else contact the Development: Ministry and Mission department at the Diocese of Ely.

Bible Readings

Week 1 Philippians 2. 1 - 16

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”^[c] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain.

Week 2 1 Peter 2: 1-9

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Week 3 Romans 12: 1-8

¹² Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Week 4 Mark 3: 13-19

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve^[a] that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Week 5 Ephesians 4:1-16

⁴ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it^[a] says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”^[b]

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Week 6 John 17. 1-4

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Week 6 John 17.20-24

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.