



GREAT 50 DAYS

EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020 DISTRICT INITIATIVE

Yorkshire North and East Methodist District invites you to make these three themes a priority between Easter & Pentecost 2020:

"Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed"

Although these are challenging days, I invite you to join with me and others around our District in faithfully seeking to make these a 'great' 50 days as we celebrate and share our faith in action.
- Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of District

Week Five : Let your life speak of faithfulness

Jesus takes a big risk on who he chooses to be his friends. Judas is about to betray him because he thinks Jesus needs to act faster. Jesus keeps going with his mission, even when he knows that he is being betrayed.

*It is good to hear of groups meeting on 'zoom' to discuss the material.
If you're not online, who could you share your thoughts with on the phone?*

CONNECT WITH GOD

Reflect on your experiences of giving to, and receiving from, others as you lived with attention to God this week. Was there a particular time when you recognised God speaking to you? Have you managed to do something risky over these past few days? How do that feel? What have you learnt?

CONTEMPLATE

Say out loud (or even sing!) this verse from Timothy Dudley Smith's hymn. (StF 470)

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

Spend a couple of moments in silence reading through the words again and reflecting upon them. Relive in your mind's eye in as much vivid detail as possible an occasion where someone showed you an act of love which really touched you and was unexpected.

When did it happen? What happened? What did they do? How did you react? How did you feel afterwards? How do you think God was loving you through the experience?

Now spend some time in deep thanks to God for this experience and this person or persons. In your mind's eye, think back over the week that you have just lived through.

CONSIDER: John 13:31-35 (NRSV)

When [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Setting: During the final meal that Jesus shares with his disciples, he predicts that one of them (Judas) will betray him. Judas leaves at this point to do what he has been planning. Perhaps he

thinks he can force Jesus' hand to act faster. Jesus meanwhile gives the rest of his disciples a new commandment. They are to love one another, as he has loved them. In this way everyone will know that they are his disciples. This is a love which continues despite betrayals and many mistakes that they will make. It is an unconditional love.

Take some time to read through the passage each day. Look for a word, phrase or idea which lights up for you or a question that is raised. Reflect on this and come back to it the next day.

What is the nature of tough love and how does it point to God?

COMMIT

1. How are you going to pay more attention to God so that you live with intentional generosity this week?
2. Reflecting upon our three themes, is there a personal risky venture that you can continue to take, or one that you can begin, this week.

LOVE 

PRAY 

GIVE 

Here are some more ideas from our young people. Maybe you could take on one of these suggestions? Please continue to share your thoughts with me – it's great to hear of all the different ways in which people are making these themes practical.

GREAT 50 DAYS

EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020

Join us in making these
three themes a priority


LOVE


PRAY


GIVE

PRACTICAL IDEAS FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Be patient and respectful of people's space when shopping

Sing a song and put it on Social Media

Leave a small luxury gift on a neighbour's door step - knock and walk away

Pick up the litter on your street (wear gloves!)

Give to a family charity like littlevillagehq.org
London has been hit especially hard – so it is good to support people there



Let us know what you are doing around the themes of Love, Pray and Give to support your communities in creative ways during the Great 50 Days?

www.yorkshiremethodist.org/our-work/great-50-days



PRAYER

God of amazing grace, you entrust to us the gift of your life.

You invite us to notice and treasure you.

May the threads of our lives, mundane and spectacular, speak of you,
that your love may overflow to others and the whole world. Amen.