



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 Three : Let your life speak of new beginnings

Despite Peter's passionate love for Jesus and enthusiasm for the cause of Jesus, for God's Kingdom, he has a lot of growing to do, and some devastating mistakes to mature through before he can become the rock on which the church will be built.

It is good to hear of some people meeting in 'zoom' groups to discuss the material. Or perhaps you could pick up the phone and share thoughts?

CONNECT WITH GOD

Reflect on your experiences of giving to, and receiving from, others over this last week. Did you experience any fear and how did you find courage to overcome it?

CONTEMPLATE

Read through (or even sing?!) Brian Wren's hymn. (StF 588).

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, And strangers now are friends.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known; We see and praise Him here.*

*Together met, together bound, We'll go our diff'rent ways,
And as His people in the world, We'll live and speak His praise.*

Spend some time, repeating slowly to yourself each of the phrases: "I come" (letting its meaning sink deep into you), then moving on to "with joy"; then "to meet my Lord"; "forgiven"; "loved" and "free". This is like sucking on a sweet to slowly take in and savour the flavour.

CONSIDER: John 21:13-19 (NRSV)

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' 17 He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Setting: Some of the disciples, full of discouragement after the death of Jesus, have returned to their previous occupation of fishing. Jesus meets them on the seashore. He asks Peter three times whether he loves him, to counter-balance the three times when Peter denied him at his trial. Peter is called again from discouragement and Jesus' love for him reaffirmed, despite Peter's great betrayal. This gives Peter the belief that he is forgiven and courage to start again.

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. *Can you think of an experience where you or someone else failed either in something big or relatively small? What did you see being learnt?*

COMMIT

1. How are you going to pay more attention to God so that you live with generous intention to others this week?
2. Reflecting upon our three themes, work out a small risky venture that God may be asking you to investigate or help out with this week.

LOVE 

PRAY 

GIVE 

Here are some more ideas from our young people. Maybe you could take on one of these suggestions? Please let me know any other ideas you have this week so that we can begin to share more through the Great 50 Days. We will share more practical ideas for each theme in the coming days.



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

- Cook a hot meal for someone in your community
- Clap for carers
- Give to Beauty Bank www.beautybanks.org.uk
- Record a verse from the Bible and post it on social media
- Give up your place in the supermarket queue for someone who is struggling

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.