



# 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 Four : Let your life speak of God

*When we are in control and 'together' in ourselves, we may find it harder to hear and recognise the voice of God. Our own voice is too strong. It is humble souls, who know how easy it is to get lost, make mistakes, and get it wrong that recognise, listen to and obey God's voice and find 'the way' to let their lives speak.*

*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 as you lived with attention to God this week. Did you make any mistakes and did you try and hold them lightly remembering the story of Peter and Jesus last week? Reflect upon how you have felt contemplating, or doing, something risky and personally different.

### CONTEMPLATE

In your mind's eye, think back over the week that you have just lived through. Let a few things that happened spring up in your mind. What do you think God was saying to you in the experiences?

Notice the loud and the quiet peaceful feelings. The moments of joy, and of confusion. The moments of a sense of freedom, and the moments of a sense of guilt. Talk to God silently about these feelings; can you sense what God may be saying to you?

### CONSIDER: John 10:22-30 (NRSV)

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

*Setting: Jesus is in Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Dedication. The religious authorities ask him directly whether he really is the Messiah. They want a definite answer. Jesus answers that the evidence of who he is can be seen in the effect of his actions. They see his actions, but cannot believe. Very often we would like God to spell things out in black and white. But hearing God's voice is a process of strange recognition.*

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.

*How have you learnt how to recognize the voice of God?*

### COMMIT

1. Think of one word which sums up what God has been saying to you this week.
2. How are you going to pay more attention to God so that you live with generous intention to others this week?
3. Reflecting upon our three themes, think of one way in which you will take a personal risky venture 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 be sharing 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

Bake something and take it to your neighbour or someone who lives alone

Sponsored back yard marathon (or 5K)

Make a stranger laugh when queuing in the supermarket

Make a story time video for parents to use with their children

During lockdown many fundraising events have been cancelled, so try and give extra to charity or to a charity you haven't given to before.

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.yorkshirinemethodist.org/our-work/great-50-days](http://www.yorkshirinemethodist.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.