

WITNESS – Reaching out to others *(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)*

Ffald-y-Brenin Blessings

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

1 Relationships

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

2 Health

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

3 Wealth

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

4 Education

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

5 Church

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overflow of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you.

LUKE'S GOSPEL GOSPEL FOR THE OUTSIDER

6 The Gospel and the Poor

WELCOME – Breaking the ice *(Aim for 10 minutes)*

What is the best thing someone else has done for you?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord *(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)*

Read the 10 Commandments in Exodus Chapter 20 verses 1—17
What strikes you? Which of the commandments do you find most challenging? Talk to God about it and ask for his help.

Finish by praying the Lord's Prayer together

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

If Luke collected a number of stories of Jesus' ministry among women, he no less collected teaching, parables, and stories of meetings with people which revolved around money. More than any other Gospel writer, he highlighted issues of money in discipleship, and did so through a combination of reporting Jesus' teaching on the subject, parables, and encounters with people for whom it was a big issue.

Teaching

Read Luke 6:17-26.

1 What principles does Jesus establish about wealth? What are its risks, what are its opportunities?

Parables

Read Dives and Lazarus (16:19-31); the Rich Fool (12:13-21); the Shrewd Manager (16:1-15); Ten Minas (19:11-27).

2 What do they teach about the responsibilities, pitfalls, and opportunities of wealth?

3 Why did Jesus commend the shrewd manager? What can we learn from him?

4 What should have the Rich Fool and Dives done?

5 What does the parable of the Ten Minas teach?

Encounters around the issue of wealth

Read The Rich Young Ruler (18:18-30); Zacchaeus (19:1-10).

6 Why was one able to give away most of his wealth and the other could not? What does that say about the power of wealth and the motives that can release it for others? What perspective does Jesus bring to the money-makers of today's world?

7 Summarise what you have learnt from this study.

Taken from
Whitworth, P., (2014) *Gospel for the Outsider*, Durham: Sacristy Press