

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others**

***(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)***

Five people volunteer to do one topic each. Read the set words and then pray an extempore prayer about your topic. With luck it will take 10 mins!

### **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 overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you.

# **JOHN 11.1-44**

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## **Back from the Dead!**

***John 11:1–44***

### **WELCOME – Breaking the ice**

***(Aim for 10 minutes)***

When have you seen God at work over the last week?

OR

When have you felt closest to God this week?

### **WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord**

***(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)***

#### **The Examen**

Think about what has been the best thing and what has been the worst thing which has happened over the last week.

Each say a “Thank you” prayer for the best thing that has happened.

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

I was murdered in the high school play – stabbed in the back by a treacherous friend. But the next day I was sitting in class as if nothing had happened! No one was shocked to see me alive because my “death” was a deception.

The real experience of death is far more difficult to handle. Ever since God judges Adam and Eve for their sin, death has plagued humanity. It snatches those we love and looms over our lives like a menacing spirit. The Bible calls death our final enemy.

- ♦ What feelings do you have when you think about death? What facts about death (if you knew for sure they were true) would ease your concerns?

In this chapter Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows why we need never fear death again.

**Read John 11:1–44.**

1. From the clues in this chapter, describe Jesus' relationship with each member of the family: Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
2. How can we resolve the seeming conflict between Jesus' love for Lazarus and his deliberate delay in helping him (vv. 4–5, 15)?
3. What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha's statements to Jesus (vv. 17–27)?

How does Jesus stretch Martha's faith in this brief encounter?

4. Jesus declares to Martha that “he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (vv. 25–26). What kind of “life” and “death” is Jesus referring to in each case?

5. How should Christ's statement radically alter our views of life and death?

6. Why do you think John emphasizes that Jesus was deeply moved by Mary's grief and the anguish of those with her (vv. 28–38)?

7. In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God?

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