

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 overflow of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you.

JOHN 14.1-31

3

Comfort for a Troubled Heart

John 14:1–31

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)

The call came late at night. A broken sob was followed by these words: “Our son is dying. Will you please come to the hospital?” As I made the trip through darkened streets, I wondered what I could say to bring comfort to these heartbroken parents. Jesus faced that challenge too. In this chapter he comforts eleven disciples who feel like their world is coming unglued.

- ◆ Who is the person you most want to be around when you are hurting? What is it about that person that brings comfort to you?

Jesus faced the challenge of dealing with broken hearts too. In this chapter he comforts eleven disciples who feel like their world is coming unglued. **Read John 14:1–13.**

1. What does Jesus say in chapter 13 that causes his disciples to have “troubled” hearts (v. 1)?
2. How would the promises Jesus makes in verses 1–4 bring comfort to his disciples?
3. After being with Jesus for over three years, what have both Thomas and Phillip failed to realize about him (vv. 5–14)?

4. Put Jesus’ statement in verse 6 and 7 in your own words. In light of those verses, how would you answer someone who thinks there are “many ways to God”?

5. Read John 14:15–31. Another source of comfort for these troubled disciples would be the Holy Spirit. What does the title *Counselor* tell us about the Spirit’s ministry?

6. What is the relationship between our love and obedience to Jesus and his love and presence in our lives (vv. 15–24)?

How is this different from legalism—earning Christ’s love and presence through our good works?

7. How does the peace Christ offers differ from that which the world offers (vv. 25–31)?

8. Where do you need Jesus’ peace in your life right now?

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