

## **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 12.1-50**

2

## **The King's Last Acts**

***John 12:1–50***

### **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 have a friend who takes the Bible's challenge to "number our days" very literally. He has calculated his expected life span, translated it into days and he writes the days he has left above every day in his planner. Instead of being a morbid reminder of his death, it motivates him to leave a legacy of love and holy living.

- ♦ What acts do you want to be remembered for? How consistently do you do what you want the people you love to remember?

If you have ever felt rejected or misunderstood, you know how Jesus felt as his public ministry came to an end. The hostility against him had risen to a fever pitch. His gentle compassion and abundant miracles were met with oppression and violence. Jesus knew what none of his friends knew—that he was about to die. In spite of the fleeting attempts of the crowd to make him King, Jesus chose the way of the cross. **Read John 12:1–11.**

1. Which person in the passage do you identify most closely with: Mary, who loved giving; Jesus, who appreciated receiving; or Judas who only looked at the cost? Explain why you identify with that person.

2. Judas objects to Mary's extravagance. What motives and wrong thinking lie behind his objection (vv. 4–8)?

3. How would you have reacted to Mary's act?

What can we expect if we are extravagant in our devotion to Jesus?

4. **Read John 12:12–36.** What do the shouts of the crowd tell us about their expectations of Jesus (vv. 12–19)?

5. How do Christ's statements about his mission clash with the crowd's expectations (vv. 23–28)?

6. Jesus often used apparent contradictions to drive home a truth. How would you explain verse 25 in terms that apply to your life (see also vv. 26–28)?

7. Jesus makes it clear that he is about to die. According to verses 23–33, what will Jesus' death accomplish (note vv. 23–24, 28, 31–32)?

Which of these results is most encouraging to you? Explain why?

8. How can you apply the example of Jesus to people who reject you or your witness about Christ?

*From John: The Way to True Life by Douglas Connelly. Copyright 1990 by Douglas Connelly. Published by InterVarsity Press.*