

Activity Resource Sheet 27

Precious

Words don't seem to be able to fully describe just how difficult and challenging the last year has been. I continue to struggle with making sense of what we are living through. Every so often, over the last year, this quote from the Bible has come to mind. It's not a quote I recall ever coming to mind before. 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight'. I associated these words with St Paul but the Internet informed me they are from Proverbs 3:5-6.

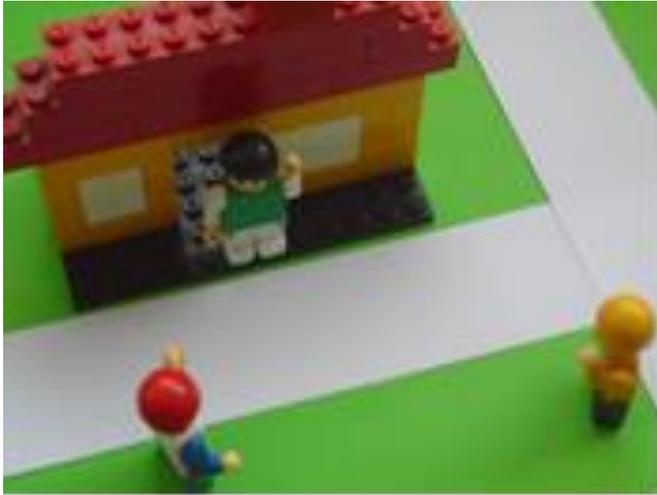
In a recent Radio 4 Sunday morning service the Archbishop of Wales noted that sometimes our best-laid plans go in a very different direction. He said that 'like the first disciples, our lives are also a turbulent journey of challenge, opportunity, success and failure, security, serenity and also times of darkness and fear'. But, he explained, 'like them we can be faithful, not fearful, and follow the Good Shepherd'. That's not to say it will be easy. The first disciples were shocked when Jesus died on a cross.

I am thankful that since March 2020 there has always been hope even if it's flame has been small. I like many people have valued having access to online Christian prayers, music, sermons, services and other resources. Bishop Nick regularly writes a blog. Words from one blog, back in spring 2020, have stayed with me. In response to the daily announcements of how many people have died of Coronavirus he reminded us that every person is precious. Not just because the closely bereaved love and miss them but because as a society every loss is our loss. We are all precious to each other and to God.

It can take time, sometimes a lifetime, to fully realise that God is compassionate and offers his care and guidance to every one of us. In Genesis 32 we read about Jacob wrestling with God. How this resonates. And in Matthew chapter 28 we read that Jesus said 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' We walk in faith.

Activity

This week's activity is quite simple. All I ask you to do is sit quietly and think about those people who are, and who have been, precious to you. Don't be surprised if a smile appears on your face or you shed a tear. Both are fine.



You may feel able to share some of your thoughts with family or friends. Perhaps it is better to keep them to yourself. This prayer may help...

Thank you God that you walk alongside us in all aspects of our precious lives.

Help us live our lives inspired by your grace and guidance. Amen

In Matthew chapter 2 we can read about people who recognised that Jesus is precious. 'After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

We don't have to wait until Christmas to engage with these words.

These church activities started in March 2020. This is the last one.

We are very grateful to Gordon Henderson, at St Matthew's church in Chapel Allerton, who created these activity sheets, for allowing us to use them. We hope you have found them helpful.
