

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Lent 2

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection



Rocky Relationships

Mark 8: 31-38

In our story today we heard how Jesus and his disciples did not always agree. It is encouraging for us that this didn't result in Jesus rejecting them. In fact it was through having the courage to argue with Jesus that the disciples learned how to follow him.

- Spend a few minutes looking at this group of people in a meeting where they are exploring ideas....
- Reflect on how we will at some point in the not too distant future be in a position of group meetings like this instead of having meetings on Zoom or FaceTime...
- What have we missed about having meetings where we are physically in the same room as others? How will it be to return to holding meetings in this way?
- How easy do you find it to be in a situation where you are expected to speak out with your opinions?
- What topics are you prepared to speak about, even knowing that you will face fear or rejection?
- How do you react when faced with conflict or disagreement within a group?

Five Questions Bible Study

Bible Reading:

Mark 8.31-38 **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection** – New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Some questions to help you think about the reading a little more:

- In faith, Abraham travelled thousands of miles to obey God's command. What journeys have we made during the pandemic to keep God's Word alive?
- Peter tried to deny the news from Jesus that he didn't want to hear. Can you think of times when you have closed your ears to difficult news from Jesus?
- Giving up chocolate for Lent isn't real sacrifice in the context of this week's readings. How can you significantly recognise the sacrifice that our faith demands?
- How do you connect faith and sacrifice in your life as a disciple of Christ?
- The first disciples gathered by Jesus were just ordinary people, - no theological qualifications, no apparent inbred prejudices – just a representative group. So which disciple could you particularly identify with? (No prizes, just self-reflection!)