

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

21st June 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the 10th The Bigger Picture, a spiritual package to help you to connect with God this week.

May the Lord bless you.

Mike & Sharon

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike...

I was purchasing a walking permit recently when I was asked, 'Do you qualify for a concession?' 'What kind of concession?' I replied. 'Like being 65... though, of course, you are nowhere near 65, are you?' I was too taken aback to admit that I am only 10 months away from that landmark!

It's a human tendency to underestimate in all kinds of ways. A week or so ago, I was walking by Pitsford Reservoir in Northamptonshire. I had thought this was quite a small body of water. I was surprised at

one point to realise just how wide it is. Then I remembered the title of a book I read many years ago, 'Your God is too small'.

If ever there was a danger of underestimating God, it's now. Many Christians think Satan is having a field day with the Coronavirus. They're pretty sure that God will eventually win the war but, for the moment, Satan is on top in the current global battle.

What errant nonsense. If you even think there is any element of truth in that kind of theory, your God is too small. Satan has only ever done what God, within his permissive will, allows him to do. Quite a conundrum isn't it?

If you are to maintain the necessary poise to emerge from lockdown in good spiritual shape, you will need to believe in an enormous God who is in control of all the nations of the world and a great big wonderful God who will finally banish this virus when he chooses and not a moment before.

So relax in your huge amazing God and trust him for one day at a time.



CONNECT

Sunday 21st June

Sermon - Looking at David and Mephibosheth, (2 Samuel 9) - <https://youtu.be/153yRTEV8EY>

A short message - "Love Tenderly"
<https://youtu.be/1MpfEgF4wTA>

Thursday 25th June

10.30am - Encounter - Bible Study on Zoom - Mike starts a new series on the Kingdom of God.

Sunday 28th June

10.30am - Worship & Praise - a church gathering on Zoom, including, a short talk by Mike, and songs chosen and led by Helen.

Church at Home

On the MRBC website are resources for families who want to worship together.

This week the worship is on the theme of God the Father, looking at David and Mephibosheth, with an all age talk on YouTube <https://youtu.be/rtAH6AFje-o>

www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/

"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!"

(1 John 3:1)

Bible Study

Mike's thoughts on the Sermon on the Mount, this week looking at Matthew 5:3....

Jesus promises blessings

The Sermon on the Mount has been described as the best sermon ever preached. Many people love this teaching of Jesus which begins in Matthew 5. Jesus talked to his disciples about various blessings. These have become known as the beatitudes or beautiful attitudes.

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'*

Matthew 5: 3

Jesus says, 'Happy are the poor' but many people think that true happiness means being rich. Actually, Jesus wasn't talking about being 'poor in pocket' but 'poor in spirit'. So, is this the opposite of being in good spirits? By no means.

Jesus is encouraging us to recognise our tendency to sin. We need to acknowledge our spiritual poverty. Naturally, we are not spiritual people. Living a holy life does not come easily to many Christian believers.

Prayer Challenge

For those who want to go deeper with God....

Pray for Healing

*"I am the Lord who heals you "
(Exodus 15:26)*

I wonder, how do you feel about praying for healing for yourself or for another person?

Praying for healing can be difficult, especially if the person is young in faith or has no faith as it can be damaging if God doesn't answer the prayer.

What do we mean when we pray for healing? Some people may be looking for physical healing, the miraculous healing that is seen in the New Testament. This can happen but we don't often see it.

It can also mean, spiritual healing, healing in our relationship with God, healing from the damage our sins cause to our spirit,

*"Confess your sins to each other and pray
for each other so that you may be healed."
(James 5:16)*

And it can mean emotional healing, healing from

When we recognise our spiritual poverty, we will stop trying to live as Christians in our own strength but look to God for strength on a moment by moment basis. Like the apostle Paul, we will discover that God's promise is true, 'My power is made perfect in weakness.' 2 Corinthians 12: 9

We can find happiness and blessing through coming to terms with our spiritual poverty, being aware of our weaknesses and making use of God's resources to lead fruitful and victorious lives.



past or current hurts, healing from the pain of losing someone, through death or relationship break up.

*"The Lord heals the broken-hearted
and bandages their wounds."*

Psalm 147:3

If you are hurting ask God for healing. God knows the healing you need, but he will wait for you to ask. Jesus asked the blind beggar "What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:51) and God asks you the same question, 'what do you want him to do for you?' Dare to pray for healing.

Although, it is important to understand that God may not grant us physical healing but always desires for us to receive spiritual and emotional healing. Sometimes, we may need advice and prayer from an experienced Christian leader or counsellor.

The Well Christian Healing Centre

The Well offers prayer ministry and support by way of a meeting on zoom.

For more information see their website
<https://www.wellhealing.org/>

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"

Prayer & Praise for the Week

Prayer Pointers

This week please pray for

- Sunday** fathers, that God would make them a blessing to others and that he would fulfil his special purposes for their lives. Give thanks for the father figures in your life.
- Monday** everyone who is yet to prayer walk they streets of Coventry under the Open Heaven initiative. Pray they are protected physically and spiritually, that God gives them leading on what to pray for, and that they have the courage to act on any opportunities as they present themselves.
- Tuesday** Terry R as he recovers and heals from his operation last week. Pray he receives any appropriate and necessary ongoing medical care.
- Wednesday** Sarah S as she continues to suffer with an ear infection in her left ear. Please pray she gets the medical care and attention she needs, and she will soon be relieved of the pain and discomfort with no lasting damage.
- Thursday** Martin P who has a pre-op appointment (face to face) with the consultant today. Pray they get a date for the operation soon. Also, pray for Gill who is back at work this week. Pray that both Martin and Gill have the strength they need.
- Friday** our young people, that they may be positive and motivated and have the strength and courage they need, stepping forward into the new normal and new starts in September, without the normal support through transition.
- Saturday** all households where there is stress or tension between individuals—the current situation is putting a strain on relationships, made worse by financial worries, having young children to entertain all day everyday, grief, worry over sick or isolated relatives, and anxieties over employment status. Pray God's peace and wisdom into these situations—may they know his leading.



Sing Your Praises to the LORD 🎵 🎵

A week of worship from worship leader, Rachel.

For those of us who have not got our earthly fathers with us any more Sunday is a difficult day! But we still have our heavenly Father who is there protecting, supporting and cheering us on. May we find comfort in that fact. Let us celebrate what our Dads meant to us and the many happy memories many of us have.

To those of you who still have your Dads in your lives, I would encourage you to tell them how much you love them and are grateful for all that they do.

Psalms 68, verses 5-6 speak of a God who is a "father to the fatherless" and a "defender of widows". It talks about someone who "places the lonely in families", which is interesting in the light of the recent changes to the guidelines regarding COVID-19 - as they have done just that.

Ephesians 6, verse 5, reminds the fathers among us that we have responsibilities; that we shouldn't be winding our children up by the way we treat them

*(I am guilty as charged! still deliberately pick arguments with Hannah, for no reason other than that I have nothing better to do, Ed. *)*

Lean hard on your heavenly Father to equip you for that responsibility.

**I should explain that Rachel gives me these messages to type up and send to Sharon! - Graham*

Songs for this week

(Click on the title)

[The Father's Song](#)

[Good, Good, Father](#)

[Praise the Father, Praise the Son](#)

[Christ in Me](#)

[Father's Eyes](#)

[Father God I wonder](#)

[Father Me](#)

