

v 24-27 How might the wise and foolish men have approached building differently? How do the wise man's efforts resemble putting Jesus' words into practice?

What storms have you had to face in your life? Have there been times when you have been glad of firm foundations? Or have you encountered situations that have exposed the fact that your foundations weren't built as solidly as you previously thought?

Worship - Try to each share one thing that you feel God has been saying to you recently. It could be based on a recent sermon, a personal quiet time spent reading the bible and praying, a book you've been reading or encounter with someone else. But where you can, share a verse of scripture which reinforces and confirms it. As you share, try to be honest and real about your weaknesses. After all who feel able have spoken, praise God together by a prayer or song thanking him for the way he guides us through the bible.

Witness

- ◆ Where people have shared a particular struggle or need, pray for them first
- ◆ Return again to the witness section for the last two weeks - spend some time either planning your event or praying for people on your fish.

Cell Members Notes for February: BECOMING DISCIPLES

Dates for Cells

3rd - Cell Leaders' Meeting

4th - Thurs eve cell social

9th - Joint Cell Service - Ash Wednesday Service
of Forgiveness and Healing 6.30pm, Tasburgh Church

11th - Tues/Wed eve cell Social

13th - Confirmation Service at Saxlingham Church 11am

- followed by a "Bring and share" lunch. Please come to support Jeff, Annette, Sarah and Val, Hannah, Sophie and Tara
(and bring a plate of finger food)

"4All"

The first anniversary of this Special Service at Swainsthorpe Church at 4.30pm

20th - Joint Cell Service - Evening Praise at Tasburgh Church at 6.30pm
Sarah Casson from Wycliffe Bible Translators will be talking about her work in the Congo

24th - Sarah Casson to visit Thursday Cell

26th - Mission Shaped Church Day - 10.30-4pm, St Luke's Church, Norwich

Week beginning 6th Feb

NB no cell outline given for week beginning 6th Feb due to Ash Wednesday joint service (See above)

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

The person leading worship will need a worship song (on CD?) which speaks of leaving other things to follow Jesus eg "All I once held dear" or "Take the world but give me Jesus"

The person leading "Word" also needs to listen to Gail's Story from the CD in advance

The person leading witness will need a piece of netting, some paper fish shapes and some pens.

PLEASE LET YOUR CELL LEADER KNOW IF YOU CAN COME TO THE MISSION SHAPED CHURCH DAY ON 26TH FEB BY THIS WEEK AT THE VERY LATEST. WE NEED TO BOOK PLACES.

How do you become a disciple? Week beginning 13th Feb

Welcome - Tell the group about a time when you (or someone you know well) was asked to take on a challenging job. How did you feel - privileged/daunted/pressured /excited etc ?

Worship - The disciples had to leave their nets and boats behind to follow Jesus and to be part of his small group. Choose a worship song on CD that speaks of God's call to follow him. As you listen to the music, think about what you are leaving behind to be part of this cell - other activities, thoughts, attitudes etc. Write on a piece of paper your personal hopes and fears for this cell group and place them in a bowl to show that you hand these concerns over to God.

Word - Read The Calling of the First Disciples Luke 5.1-11

This great story tells how Jesus caught the attention of his first followers and how he started to build up his own cell group.

- ◆ *Choose one verse that strikes you. Share with the group what it is that made this verse stand out to you*
- ◆ *Jesus called people as individuals to a personal relationship with him. Have you heard a call like this in your life? If so, how?*
- ◆ *Jesus called individuals to a higher purpose and to be part of a community. Tell the group about anything similar in your life.*
- ◆ *Right from the start, Jesus gave his disciples a task and a promise to do, What was it? Is that same task and promise relevant to you?*

Listen to Gail's Story from the CD. What inspires you from this story?

Witness - Get a piece of netting, some paper fish shapes and some pens. On the fish shapes write down the names of one or two people that you see regularly and are yet to become Christians. Tell the group a little bit about them so you can pray together for them over the next few weeks. Put the fish shapes in the net and pray.

Then each share something of your own needs or those of friends and neighbours and pray together for these. Don't forget to include to pray about the next cell social event to which each member of your cell could invite one or two people.

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK:

- ◆ Someone to bring newspapers, sellotape and a prize for the "Welcome" activity.
- ◆ Someone to look up a number of verses which speak about God's power/glory and place them in a treasure/jewellery box - and prepare to lead the group in praising God.
- ◆ The person leading the "Word" section particularly needs to have studied the passage in advance.

Disciples suffer with their Master Week beginning 20th February

Aim: To bring areas of difficulty before God in prayer. To give and receive encouragement and support

Welcome - "Fun and fragile" In 10 mins, build paper statues out of newspaper and selotape. A prize for the tallest tower.

Worship - Take a bible verse from the treasure box. Read the bible verses and take some time to praise God.

Word - Read Treasures in Jars of Clay " Corinthians 4.1-12

- ◆ What are the obstacles and difficulties that you think Paul encountered as he shared his faith and beliefs with others?
- ◆ What was the reason for these difficulties? (v.3-4)
- ◆ Do you ever feel like a "clay jar? Why?
- ◆ What hope does the passage give you as you consider your own difficulties in telling others the good news?

Read Debbie's Story - an example of God working through individual weakness.

Witness -

- ◆ Pray for each other - that God would shine his light and power through us in our weaknesses. Pray for any particular needs in the group that may have come from the discussion about weakness.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the people whose names you wrote on the fish shapes last week
- ◆ Plan a simple social event to which your group could invite one or two people

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Bring Jenga Game.

As many as possible, come prepared to share one thing that you feel God has been saying to you recently.

Make any practical arrangements for your forthcoming social event.

Disciples Obey the Master Week beginning 27th February

Welcome - Play a quick game of Jenga (Giant Jenga can be borrowed from Chris Gaze)

Word - Read Matthew 7.13-29

v13-14 What are the characteristics of the wide road and the narrow road?

(NB Jesus is not here talking about entering the Kingdom of Heaven in terms of becoming a Christian but is talking about entering into the fullness of life that the Kingdom offers now. Look at these verses to find out what else is required of those who would enter the Kingdom: Matthew 5.3-10; 5.19-20, 7.21, 18.3, 19.14, 19.23, 21.31, 25.34)

How do we make sure we stay on the narrow road?

OR The Old Testament is full of guidance for daily life with laws and customs to bring God's presence to mind in our home lives:bb

Read Deuteronomy 6.1-9 & 16.13-15

- Do you have the opportunity to talk about the bible at home? (v7) Who with? How does this help you?
- Do you ever put posters with bible words or prayers on them in places to remind you? (v.8)
- What good habits have you formed which help you to grow closer to Jesus - prayer, bible-reading?
- As well as the daily routine, festival times can help us to draw closer to God and to our loved ones? What do you do in your home or with your family/friends that points to God's love at Christmas or Easter?

Witness -

- Share needs for prayer. Particularly focusing on the needs of the family and close friends of cell members. Share any struggles you have in your personal prayer life or reading the bible. Pray for each other's needs.
- Begin to think about your next social - what about

During the Week - Through April and May, we're going to be looking at the theme of Creating Community. Read the story of the beginning of the first church in Acts chapters 1 and 2.

Cell Members Notes for March: BECOMING DISCIPLES cont

Dates for Cells

Events in Holy Week

20th - Tasburgh Church - Palm Sunday - Benefice Prayer and Praise

21st - Newton Flotman Church Room - Compline 9pm

22nd - Tharston Church - Compline - 9pm

23rd - Swainsthorpe - Compline - 9pm

24th - 7.30pm - Tasburgh - Maundy Thursday - Celtic style service of Holy Communion and the washing of feet.

25th - 10-12 - The Easter Storykeepers -

Film and Craft Activities for children aged 5-11

25th - 3pm - Saxlingham, Church - Performance of Stainer's Crucifixion

25th - 9pm - Shotesham, St Mary - Tenebrae, shadows and waiting on Good Friday

27th - Easter Day - 9.30 at Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh and Shotesham
11am at Newton, Tharston and Saxlingham

Being a Disciple when Suffering Comes Week Beginning 13th March

Aim - To encourage and support one another in difficult times.

Welcome - What news item has had most impact on you in the last month? Why?

Worship - Read Psalm 126 - praise to God for the exiles return from captivity - a truly newsworthy event.

Break into twos or threes and have a go at writing your own Psalm of Praise.

Read your creations aloud then draw together with a song or few moments of silence, remembering God's greatness and his work through the events of history.

Word - John 11.1-45

How do you feel about the fact that Jesus delayed to help his friend? (Angry? Understanding? Puzzled?) What reason did he give for delaying?

Is there anything in this passage that you don't understand?

Who do you most identify with in the passage - Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Jesus, the crowd, the Pharisees? Why?

Choose a verse which means something to you. Share it with the group and explain why it is special to you.

"Your most profound and intimate experiences of worship will likely be in your darkest days" Rick Warren - The Purpose Driven Life Do you agree?

Witness -

- Share needs for prayer. Particularly focusing on the needs of the family and close friends of cell members. Share any struggles you have in your personal prayer life or reading the bible. Pray for each other's needs.
- Plan your next social - Perhaps it could be a celebration of Easter. What about a Fairtrade Chocolate Egg-stravaganza?
- Decide what you are going to do next week - It is suggested that you attend the Maundy Thursday communion in place of cell. Otherwise, you may wish to meet to study the passage and then attend night prayer together. Also note there is a special praise service on Palm Sunday evening (20th March) at 6.30pm.

During the Week - Read Matthew 21.1-11, Psalm 118.19-24

Being a disciple under pressure - Week beginning 20th March

It is suggested that you attend the Maundy Thursday communion as a cell this week. Otherwise, you may wish to meet to study the passage and then attend night prayer together.

During the Week -

Read the story of the last week of Jesus' life: Matthew 21.12-27

See the List of Dates for Cells - and see what you can attend to help you remember the events of Holy Week

Disciples of the Risen Lord - Week beginning 27th March

No cell study provided for this week. Suggest use as social event to invite friends or get in a take away, eat together, read the story of the resurrection and spend some time praising God.

During the week - Read Matthew 28

Being a Disciple at Home Based on service on 6th March - Extra study suggested that you use it for week beginning 3rd April

Aim - To encourage each other in following Jesus in our home life. To pray for each other.

Welcome - Each try to answer the question: "How would you spend your perfect day?" (Include things like what time you would get up, what you would do, who you would spend time with and what you would eat. What are the main differences between your perfect day and everyday?)

Worship - Sing a worship song or read Psalm 139.1-18

Spend some time thanking God for his presence in your everyday life

Word -

EITHER 1 Samuel 1.9-28

- What inspires you about this passage?
- What are the things which you have prayed fervently/with tears?
- Have your prayers been answered in the way you expected?
- After Hannah's much-longed for son is born, she lets go and gives him back to God. (v28) What things in our home lives do you need to "give back" to God? How can you do this?