

Bible Sunday – 25th October 2020

Read Matthew 24.30-35

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

The last part of today's reading are these words from Jesus: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away". This seems an appropriate phrase for Bible Sunday, a day when we think about the significance of the Bible and give thanks for the word of God in our lives.

Have you ever read a book that is so good that you want to read it again and again? There are some favourite books that I go back to whenever I feel ill, tired or need cheering up. Sometimes it's the story that has captured my imagination – it's probably a story with a good ending so that when I finish reading, I feel happy and contented. It may have characters that I really like and can identify with.

Earlier this year, during lockdown, I read lots of books. It was a great way to keep occupied and to escape some of the worries and tensions of that difficult time. We are lucky that we can access books so easily – buying them from online bookstores or downloading new ones.

The Bible is a collection of books which has stood the test of time. What makes the Bible different from other old books is that it tells the story of the relationship between God and God's people. Reading the Bible is more than just reading a good story with interesting characters – it is a way for us to develop our relationship with God. Some passages in the Bible are lovely and poetic but other parts are challenging and difficult to understand. It is all too easy to go back and read our favourite bits and ignore the unpleasant parts! What is your favourite part of the Bible? Which sections do you find challenging?

Sometimes we need to ask for help in understanding those challenging parts of the Bible – asking God for help by praying about them or talking to friends and family so that we can share ideas. Reading and talking about the Bible helps to bring us closer to God.

Activities

- Try the quiz which is on the next page to see if you know these phrases from the Bible. I'll give the answers next week so that you can check how many you managed to spot. Good luck!

Prayer

Open your Bible and choose a verse or passage that you like. Use this verse or passage as a prayer asking for God's help and guidance as you read the Bible.

Well-known Bible verses

Do you know which books of the Bible these verses are from? Can you match up the verse on the left hand side with the correct book on the right?

1	So God created humankind in his image	A	1 Samuel
2	For six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest	B	John
3	"Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."	C	Revelation
4	"Speak for your servant is listening."	D	Luke
5	As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.	E	Isaiah
6	A voice cries out "in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."	F	Ruth
7	"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour...."	G	Genesis
8	And the Word became flesh and lived among us....	H	1 Corinthians
9	And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.	I	Psalms
10	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth ...	J	Exodus