

TABLE TALK



WEEK EIGHTEEN

MON: ALL ABOUT GOD

TUES: JESUS TAUGHT US

WED: PEOPLE

THURS: THANKSGIVING

FRI: THE WORLD



MONDAY : ALL ABOUT GOD

What does it mean when we trust somebody?

In our lives there will be times where we trust somebody, and then they let us down. Has this ever happened to you? How did you feel?

Because humans aren't perfect – we're all sinners – there will always be times when other people let us down or when we will let others down. But the Bible teaches us something amazing about God – what does David say about God in this Psalm?

“You sit as the Holy One.
The praises of Israel are your throne.
Our ancestors trusted you.
They trusted you, and you saved them.
They called to you for help.
And they were rescued.
They trusted you.
And they were not disappointed.” – Psalm
22: 3-5

In this Psalm David is very sad. Lots of things are going wrong – he's betrayed people and people have betrayed him. But David reminds himself that God is trustworthy! Unlike everything else around David, he can rely on God and be confident that God will keep his promises!

TUESDAY : JESUS TAUGHT US

One day, when Jesus was teaching people, he was asked a big question by a Pharisee. A Pharisee was a religious leader and the Bible tells us that this Pharisee was an expert in the laws given by God to Moses. The Pharisee asks Jesus:

“Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?”

Jesus replied:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command.”

Instead of telling the Pharisee that one of the laws given by God was THE MOST important law, Jesus gives him a new law: to love God with... what did Jesus tell the man to love God with? Can you make an action to help you remember these three things? What do you think it looks like to love God in this way?

Spend sometime praying to God. Thank him that he is a God who loves us and wants us to love him back. Thank he loves us perfectly – ask him to help you love him with all your heart, soul and mind.

WEDNESDAY : PEOPLE

On Wednesday's we are learning about different people in Church History. Today we are learning about two women who lived along time ago, wayyyy back in the 100's! They lived in a place called Carthage in Africa which was ruled by the Romans and their names were Perpetua and Felicity.

(This is a mosaic of the made 400 years after their death! Can you read thier Latin names?)

Perpetua was from a rich and noble family in Carthage. Felicity was the opposite, she worked as a slave for the rich and noble families in Carthage. But both young women had one thing in common – they both believed in Jesus and wanted to tell other people about him!

For both Perpetua and Felicity, this was a lot harder than it is for us today in Wales. The Romans in Carthage didn't like Christians at all and even wanted to kill them! So, Christians like Perpetua and Felicity were risking their lives by following Jesus.

Sadly, one day Perpetua, Felicity and some of thier friends from Church were arrested for being Christians. All of them were given the choice of deciding to stop following Jesus and go home, or to remain followers of Jesus and be killed. All of them decided to keep following Jesus. Even though it meant they would die, they all decided hold onto the faith they had in Jesus.

People across Carthage were shocked by this. Christians were killed all the time for their faith, but Perpetua and Felicity were women, wives and mothers – the Romans normally showed mercy to them, but this time they did not. News went out that they were going to be executed in the military games in celebration of the Emperor Septimius Severus's birthday.

Loads of people came to watch – they wanted to see if Perpetua and Felicity were really willing to die for this Jesus they believed in. Both of them were and they went to be with God in heaven that day.

Even though they must have been very sad and very scared, Perpetua and Felicity were willing to die rather give up the faith they had in Jesus. Because of their bravery, dedication and faith, lots of the people in Carthage learnt about Jesus through them.

Let's thank God that we live in a country where it's not illegal to be a Christian, but let's pray for our brothers and sisters across the world who are risking their lives by following Jesus just like Perpetua and Felicity.



THURSDAY : THANKSGIVING

What are you afraid of? What makes you feel anxious, lost or a little bit helpless?

“So do not fear,
for I am with you;
do not be
dismayed, for I am your God.
I will
strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold
you with my
righteous right hand.”
– Isaiah 41:10

These are words God says to his people through the prophet Isaiah. God reminds his children that he is always with them, he will strengthen, help and guide them, so they don't need to be afraid. This is the same God we worship today!

We can bring all of our worries and concerns to God knowing that he is with us and wants to help us.

FRIDAY : THE WORLD

“*First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him. - 1 Timothy 2:1*”

On Friday's we're learning about what it is like to be a Christian in other parts of the world and spending some time praying for our brothers and sisters there. Today we are learning about a country called Laos.

Laos is a country in South East Asia, and it's been ranked as the 20th hardest country in the world to be a Christian.

Christians make up 3.2% of the population in Laos. Laos has a communist government who don't believe in any religion. Because Buddhism originated in South East Asia, Buddhists are allowed to practice their religion as part of the country's heritage. But for Christians things are not as simple because Christianity and other religions are seen as threats.

Only certain churches are given government permission to meet and churches gathering in homes is considered illegal. The government hires local people to spy on Christians and so Christians in Laos have to live every day on their best behaviour because even the smallest mistake could get them in lot of trouble. Christians, especially church leaders, are often arrested because of their faith which makes it even harder for churches to meet and learn about Jesus.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are drawing people to Yourself in Laos. Please provide ways and means for our brothers and sisters to meet together safely, and strengthen believers who are facing oppression from loved ones for choosing to follow You. May more people in Laos come to know of Your great love and mercy. Amen.

