

TABLE TALK



WEEK TWENTY

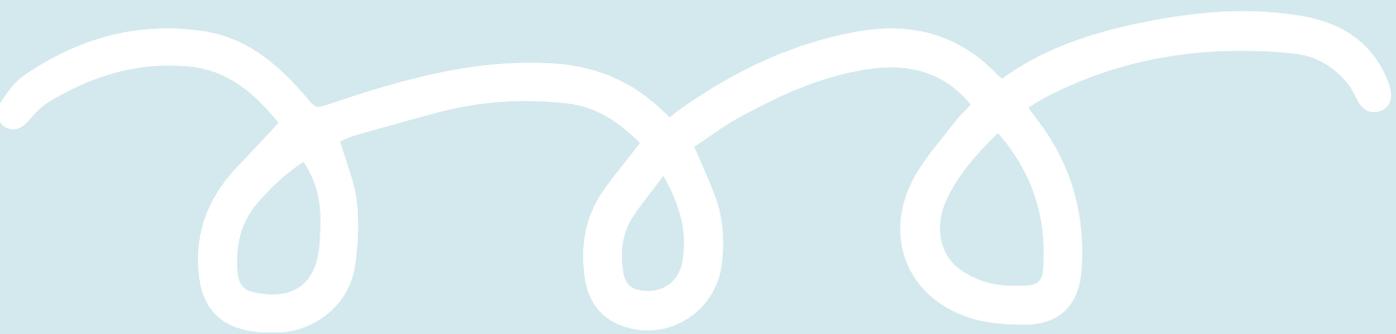
MON: ALL ABOUT GOD

TUES: JESUS TAUGHT US

WED: PEOPLE

THURS: THANKSGIVING

FRI: THE WORLD



MONDAY : ALL ABOUT GOD

Have you ever got lost? Do you remember how you felt when you looked around and realised that you didn't know where you were, or you couldn't find someone you knew? It's not a nice feeling.

In the Old Testament, God's people were lost for a long time. They weren't lost like when we get lost at the shops – they knew exactly where they were – but they didn't know what their future held, and they felt separated from God. They were lost and didn't know where to go!

But God loved his people, so he spoke to them through the prophet Isaiah. What does Isaiah promise God's people in this verse?

“The Lord will
always lead you.

He will satisfy your needs in dry lands.

He will give strength to your bones.” –

Isaiah 58:11

God was going to lead his people. In the Bible we read about lots of times God guided his people – can you think of any others?

What a relief it must have been for God's people to hear that he was with them and would guide them. The good news for us is that God is with us and will guide us too!

TUESDAY : JESUS TAUGHT US

Jesus taught his followers lots of things while he was on earth. One day, Jesus was with his disciples when they asked him to teach them about prayer. In Matthew 6 we can read lots of the different things Jesus taught his friends about prayer and in verses 9-13 he gives them a prayer that they can repeat. Do you recognise it?

“So when you pray, you should pray like this:
‘Our Father in heaven, we pray that
your name will always be kept holy.
We pray that your kingdom will come.
We pray that what you want will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the food we need for each day.
Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.
And do not cause us to be tested;
but save us from the Evil One.’
The kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours forever. Amen.”

Spend some time reading the prayer and thinking about what each sentence means. Are there any words or phrases that confuse you in this prayer? What do you think they mean?

WEDNESDAY : PEOPLE



On Wednesday's we learn about different Christians in history. Today we are learning about Thomas John Barnardo. Thomas was born in Ireland in 1845 and had 4 brothers and sisters. Thomas went to church with his family but didn't always listen. When Thomas grew up, he wrote that he was actually a very selfish child!

But Thomas did grow up and when he was 20, he moved to London. Thomas wanted to help other people, so he started to train as a doctor. Then, Thomas decided that he wanted to be a missionary so he could tell people about Jesus while he helped them feel better.

As Thomas continued to live in London, he realised that he didn't have to leave England to fulfil that purpose. All around Thomas there were children living in awful condition making them really poorly. Things were so bad that 1 in 5 children didn't live long enough to celebrate their fifth birthday. Then, there was an outbreak of disease which left hundreds of children poor, sick and without a grownup to look after them. Thomas decided to do something.

Thomas set up a free school where children could get a basic education and have adults who cared about them. But Thomas didn't think that this was enough. He decided to stop training to be a doctor so he could dedicate this life to helping children in poverty.

Thomas set up a house especially for boys without a Mum or Dad to look after them. Here they were cared for and trained so they could get a good job when they were older. To start with, the house was only big enough for 11 children. But, when Thomas heard that one boy had been turned away and died a few days later, Thomas applied to motto 'no child turned away' to all of his projects. So the houses for orphaned children grew and grew.

But Thomas didn't just want to keep children healthy and safe – he wanted them to know they were loved. So, Thomas started placing children in foster families so they would feel loved, all while telling them about the unconditional love of Jesus.

Before he died in 1905, 60,000 children had been cared for, given an education and helped to find good jobs. 8,500 children had been fostered or adopted by families giving them a loving home. Everything Thomas did went against what his society taught about poverty. But Thomas knew that Jesus loved all of these children, so he dedicated his life to loving them too!

THURSDAY : THANKSGIVING



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105

What is the Bible? Do you own a Bible?

The Bible isn't like every other book on the planet. The Bible is the word of God. Through the Bible we are able to learn about God, his Son Jesus and his plans for our lives.

In Wales, it's really easy for us to read the Bible. You might own one that belongs just to you, maybe your parents have Bibles too, at the church there are lots of Bibles for us to read – we can even read the Bible on our phones!

But, in other places in the world, the Bible hasn't been translated into the languages they speak. Right now, 1 in 5 people in the world don't have access to a Bible in their language.

Let's spend some time thanking God for his word and the gift it is to us. Thank God that we have so many Bibles to read that we don't appreciate the way we should. Pray for those people who don't have access to the Bible in their language and pray for those people who are working hard to change that!



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 are learning about and praying for our brothers and sisters in different countries. Today we are learning about Sri Lanka. Do you know where Sri Lanka is?

There are around 21 million people living in Sri Lanka. Christians make up nearly 9.5 per cent of the population, numbering almost two million. Sri Lanka is traditionally a Buddhist country but because Christians have lived in Sri Lanka for a long time Christians who come from Christians families or other countries have some freedom to express their faith.

However, Christians who come from Buddhist families are viewed as second-class citizens – not as good as other people. They can be made fun of and even be attacked because of their faith. Buddhist monks can put a lot of pressure on these Christians to convert. In rural churches, Christians face more violence and pressure to convert.

Christians in Sri Lanka also face violence from Islamic extremists. Some of us will remember the attacks on Churches in Sri Lanka in Easter 2019. Even when faced with all of this hardship, Christians in Sri Lanka remain faithful to God.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You that Your light shines most brightly in the darkest places. Continue to shine Your light in Sri Lanka, especially for those bereaved or injured in the 2019 Easter bombings. Breathe Your hope, Your peace and Your Spirit into Your church and strengthen them to continue to shine as lights for Your name's sake.