

October part 2

Creator God,
You made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



everyday
faith

Hope in Sunday's promise

So far everything we have discussed has been about living out our faith by the way we live our life every day. What we mustn't do is measure or always place the value of this on our actions towards others. In this session we are going to be thinking about hope and a Sabbath rest. A Sabbath rest does not have to be on a Sunday, any day of rest is similar. A Sabbath rest - Sunday or not - is intended to be a reminder and a foretaste of that greater rest to come. A sign to the world of a different possibility. And our everyday lives among our friends, our families, our colleagues are also intended to be a sign of hope: with Christ, there is a different way. The hope alive in us is a pointer to the hope for them.

Best is yet to come

John 2: 1-10

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **6** Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. **9** When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

What strikes you about this passage?

What questions do you have?

What does it tell you about God?

Where do you see yourself in this passage?

How does this passage encourage you in hope?

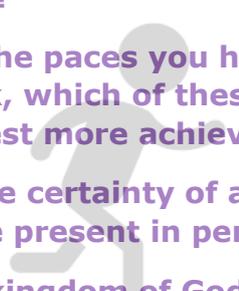


Think about the places you have been this past week, where have you seen signs of hope?

Think about the paces you have been this last week, which of these places do you find rest more achievable?

How might the certainty of a glorious future put the present in perspective?

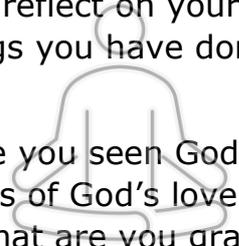
In Jesus the kingdom of God has broken into the world, where do you see foretastes of the hope that is to come?



Stillness Sabbath is about looking back as well as looking forward. Take a moment to reflect on yourself and on all the things you have done over the past week.

Where have you seen God at work? What tokens of God's love have you noticed? What are you grateful for?

After a period of silent reflection, you may wish to share with the group or with somebody else.

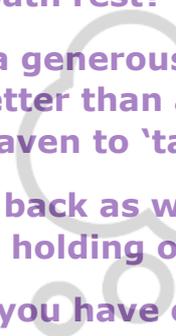


How do you observe a Sabbath rest?

Jesus' first miracle is both a generous gift and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. This banquet is better than anything ever tasted before. How do you imagine the hope of heaven to 'taste' like?

If Sabbath is about looking back as well as forward, how important do you see the need for Sabbath in holding onto hope?

Share with the group hope you have or way you could share rest and hope in your everyday faith?



Craft

Choose a form of media to show where you have experienced God's presence. Here are some ideas.

Make something with fabric or paper paint or draw a place or scene knit, weave or cross stitch using colours that express your experience.

Make a mosaic or collage or even create some music to recreate the atmosphere

Share your creations with us!



Lego

You will need:

Any Lego or Duplo you can find.

Create

After each story we will build anything we want about the story.

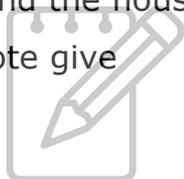
We might share our model if we want to.

During the week we can add to the model or use it to remind us of the story.



If you keep a journal or a diary write down times when you have known the deep rest of Sabbath and times where you have seen the hope of God through yourself or others.

If not, write some notes on post it notes and post them around the house, whenever you see your note give thanks to God.



A prayer that God will be revealed in all we do.

Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen.

Start each day looking for God in your everyday life.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen

Pause during the day. Be aware of what God in what you are doing.
God is good all the time. All the time God is good.



End the day by reviewing the day.

What are you grateful for? What has made you feel anxious? How do you feel about the day? Tell God anything that comes to mind? What do you need to be aware of, or let go of?

In peace we will lie down and sleep; for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus, for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning, so do we look for you, O Christ.

Time to Pray

Join us on Facebook at 9am for Prayer during the Day and at 8pm for Night Prayer Monday to Friday

Please share wider photos of your group or anything you make, stories you would like to share where you have encountered God in your everyday or feedback. You can send you contributions to revdgail@icloud.com

This worksheet has been put together using some of the material in, The Church of England, Everyday Faith resource. (2019: Church House Publishing)