

November part 1

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 for Monday

Hopelessness comes in many forms: the anguish of grief, loss, betrayal, the despair that this situation will never get better. Still, one of the quieter, more corrosive forms of hopelessness is the secret sense that the things we do day by day – the data entry, the three loads of washing, the e-mails – don't really matter to God. And if they don't matter, aren't I just wasting my time?

This session challenges such perceptions, inviting us to think about God in all things, how the day to day activities of our everyday are utterly in line with God's purposes. Our work matters to God, even down to ensuring the dishes are clean and the dog gets fed.

Everyday Matters to God

*Here is an overview of **Genesis 1 – 2:4** you are encouraged to read the whole passage.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." The third day.

God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years. The fourth day.

God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." The fifth day.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. The sixth day.

On the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

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 your everyday?



Think about the places you have been this past week, where has your presence, work or words benefited others?

On each day God did individual acts that impacted the whole. What acts are you, or could you do in your bit of the world?

Share one thing with the group something from your week where the voice of God can be heard saying – 'and it was good'.

Where in your everyday work do you see opportunities to imitate God's purpose for the world?

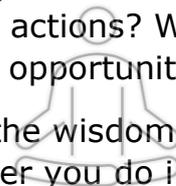


Stillness Take a moment to reflect on yourself and on all the things you have done over the past week.

Where have you seen God at work through your actions? Where were there missed opportunities?

Ask God for the wisdom and strength to do whatever you do in God's way and to God's glory.

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



In the story of creation, we are told about the work of God. How do you understand the work of God in the everyday in the world today?

God made humankind in the image and like of God. For you, what are the limits and extents of this statement?

God gave humankind a distinctive role with creation. How do you understand God's purpose for us to have 'dominion' over all that God created? How has different views of what this means impacted on cycle of creation.

In light of all that has been discussed, share with the group your hopes 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.

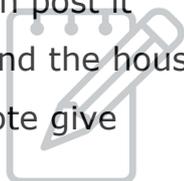
We might share our model if we want to.

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 some of the tasks you are doing during the week. Think about who will benefit from them? How do they contribute to making your bit of the world a bit better?

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 is doing 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 your 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)