

WITNESS – Reaching out to others ***(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)***

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

1 Relationships

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

2 Health

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

3 Wealth

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

4 Education

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

5 Church

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overflow of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Psalm 107

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6 Goodness

Purpose: To see how God's goodness becomes the standard for developing this fruit in our lives.

Goodness is primarily a moral quality which has as its standard the moral perfection of God.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice ***(Aim for 10 minutes)***

Who has most changed you life?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord ***(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)***

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

Pray your “thank you” to God

WORD – Applying the truth

(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

Psalm 107 is the classic exposition of God's goodness. J. I. Packer writes: "The whole psalm is a majestic panorama of the operations of divine goodness, transforming human lives." God's actions reveal goodness in its highest and purest form. His goodness provides the standard for developing this fruit in our own lives.

1. Try to imagine what it would be like if God were to withdraw all his goodness from you. How would your life be changed?

2. Read Psalm 107. How do verses 1–3 introduce the major themes of the psalm?

3. The psalmist gives four illustrations of God's goodness in verses 4–9, 10–16, 17–22 and 23–32. What do each of these illustrations have in common?

4. What needs do the people have in each of these sections?

5. In each instance what action taken by the people resulted in their deliverance?

Is this usually your first reaction when you find yourself in distress? If not, what is?

6. Repeatedly the psalmist urges those who have been delivered to "give thanks to the Lord." Why do we need to be reminded of this?

7. According to the psalmist, what are some ways we should give thanks to God for his goodness and love (vv. 22, 32)?

8. What do verses 33–42 reveal about the ups and downs of life?

9. The psalmist concludes in verse 43: "Whoever is wise, let him heed these things." What things does he want us to heed?

10. In what ways can we imitate the goodness of God displayed in this psalm?

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