

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 overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

2 Samuel 9

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5 Kindness

Purpose: To consider how we can show the fruit of kindness to others.

Kindness means treating others as God has treated us—with compassion and generosity.

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

Describe an act of kindness that someone else has done for you.

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 yous” to God

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

The friendship between David and Jonathan, the son of David's mortal enemy, Saul, was powerful and loyal to the end. Just before they parted for the last time, David swore by his love to Jonathan that as long as both their houses existed, he would show kindness to Jonathan's descendants. This was a tremendous commitment because ordinarily when a king came to power, he banished all who had come before him. Many years later, David reigned over all of Israel. In 2 Samuel 9 his promise to Jonathan is about to be fulfilled.

1. What are some reasons people have for being kind to others?

2. Read 2 Samuel 9. What reasons do you think David might have had for *not* being kind to Mephibosheth?

3. If David's kindness to Mephibosheth was not due to personal affection, on what was it based?

4. Think of a Mephibosheth in your own life (bear in mind that we are all “cripples” in some ways). As a Christian, what reasons do you have for showing kindness to that person?

5. In what specific ways did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

6. In what practical ways can you show kindness to your Mephibosheth?

7. Look now at what happened from Mephibosheth's point of view. What thoughts or feelings do you think he had when summoned to appear before David?

8. What would he have felt as he heard the words recorded in verse 7?

9. What changes from his previous life would Mephibosheth now experience as someone who was “like one of the king's sons”? (Draw on your imagination as well as on what is in the passage.)

10. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?

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