

## **Storms and Picnics Week 1**

### **Resources needed:**

#### **Essential**

- Picture for the week for each person
- Pens
- A loaf of bread (big enough that everyone can have a piece and there be some left over)
- candles or flowers
- bowl of water
- copies of the words of the hymn & prayers

#### **Optional**

- Video of QI
- ppt file including picture to project

### Call to worship:

In the breaking of bread we are known and we know  
in the eating of bread we are fed for our journey  
In the sharing of bread we become one family  
in giving bread to others we act as God's people

So, as bread and Word are broken,  
may we receive from God's hands and each others' hands  
and may we give to each other, God and the world  
that all may be fed, and find life in abundance.

### **Hymn StF 465 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

#### **StF 805      Psalm 23**

#### What are we carrying?

As the crowds that followed Jesus  
brought their hopes and dream,  
joys and sorrows,  
their struggles and preoccupations

So we come to worship  
with our minds and memories full of the past week and beyond,  
and our minds and imaginations already looking to tomorrow  
and further planning, worrying and hoping.

Let us bring all we are,  
all we have been  
and all we will be  
as we offer our prayers to God: our wonder and praise;  
our recognition of past wrongs;  
and all that we bring with us

Prayer of adoration

God of all times and all places  
and of this time and this place  
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory  
we have seen this week  
for your eternal presence in creation and beyond it,  
for the times when we've been aware of your presence  
and for those when your love has surrounded us even though we did not recognise it.  
for all that you are  
and for all that you have made  
**we praise you**

God of all times and all places  
made human in Jesus, in one time and place  
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory in in Jesus  
for his life lived among us  
for his death, resurrection and ascension  
leading us to abundant life  
for all that you are  
and for all that you have done and are doing  
**we praise you**

God of all times and all places  
but beyond time and space  
we praise you for the glimpses of your glory we are given through your Holy Spirit.  
As we worship,  
may that Spirit inspire and guide us  
that we may worship in spirit and in truth  
for all that you are  
for all you will do  
**we praise you**  
**Amen**

Prayer of confession (this or some other prayer of confession)

In silence we call to mind our sins

*Silence*

I confess to God and to you  
that I have sinned in thought, word and deed;  
may God have mercy on me.

**May God grant you pardon,  
forgiveness of all your sins,  
time to amend your life,  
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Silence

**We confess to you  
that we have sinned in thought and word and deed;  
may God have mercy on us.**

May God grant you pardon,  
forgiveness of all your sins,  
time to amend your life,  
and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Hymn StF 78 Give thanks**

### Introduction to the reading

John's Gospel - the story so far...

The beautiful hymn to the Word that begins John's Gospel invites us into the mystery of who Jesus is, asking us first to come and see, to dip our toes into the water's edge and then enticing us deeper until we are immersed in the life of the Gospel, Jesus and God. It has been described as 'a magic pool in which an elephant may swim and an infant paddle.'

We begin with that hymn to Word and Light and the story of John the Baptist, followed by the beginnings of a group of disciples.

In chapter 2 we meet Jesus' mother for the first time as she prompts him to perform his first sign by changing water into wine at a wedding in Galilee. Jesus then visits Jerusalem and drives the traders out of the Temple and is visited by Nicodemus, a Pharisee, at night. Chapter 4 begins with a long and riddling conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well in which Jesus talks of living water, and when asked about the Messiah echoes God's words at the burning bush saying 'I AM'. The chapter ends with the healing of the son of an important man in Galilee, the second of Jesus' signs.

Chapter 5 is taken up with the healing of a man by the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem and the argument about working on the Sabbath that follows.

And with that we continue the yoyoing between Jerusalem and Galilee and are transported back to Galilee again, and a chapter that like the previous one starts with signs or miracles and continues with arguments about their meaning and Jesus authority and identity...

As we read try to imagine the story as if you are hearing it for the first time

### Reading: John 6:1-15

### Time to Reflect

Take a moment to allow the story to sink in...

If you were to place yourself in the story where would you be?

Would you be a crowd member with a grumbling stomach,  
a disciple challenged to find food,

a child darting through the crowd or pestering mum for food,

or maybe a mum wishing you hadn't left the sandwiches on the kitchen table!?

How do you feel?

What jumps out at you?

*Depending on your congregation you could leave a minute or so silence to allow people to think or you could ask people to have a conversation with their neighbour (allow 2-3 minutes only)*

## **Hymn StF 161 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you**

Sermon/ drama/ etc

**Where Is Bread?** *ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7 D ("God Is Here!")*

**"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured  
— Thousands strong, yet all in need.  
"Where is bread?" your people wondered,  
Faced with such a crowd to feed.  
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?  
One small boy brought food to share.  
Taking what he gave, you blessed it;  
All were fed, with much to spare.**

**Where is bread? We know their yearning;  
Every day, we wish for more.  
God, in time, we're slowly learning:  
All we own can make us poor.  
Our possessions can possess us,  
Leaving hunger deep inside.  
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;  
At your feast, we're satisfied.**

**"Where is bread?" the call is rising;  
Millions cry who must be fed.  
God, your answer seems surprising:  
"You, my Church, you give them bread."  
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,  
Bread for hungry stomachs, too!  
Give us bread and help us share it.  
Richly blest, may we serve you.**

*Biblical References: John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17 Tune:  
Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941 ("God Is Here!")*

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*Prayers*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*This could be done by people coming forward to float lit candles or flower heads in a bowl of water.*

*Alternatively you could have silence before the prayer in which people are encouraged to think of their own thanksgivings*

*We say together*

**God of abundant meadows and full baskets  
we thank you for your gifts to us,  
for your abundant life which fills our lives, our world and our universe.  
May our eyes be opened  
so that we can see your abundance in our lives  
and in the life of the world.**

**May our hands be opened  
so we may receive your plenty from others and share your generosity with others  
In the name of God,  
Eternal, Son and Spirit  
we pray  
Amen**

Prayer of Intercession

God of abundant meadows and full baskets  
who heard the cry of your enslaved people  
and led them to freedom  
who heard the cry of your hungry people and fed them

hear our prayers  
**and let our cries come to you.**

We pray for the needs of this world  
for those enslaved by fear, terror, war, poverty, hunger, oppression  
for those crying out for freedom, justice, food for their children and themselves,  
peace and life in all its fullness

*Silence*

hear our prayers  
**and let our cries come to you.**

We pray for the church throughout the world,  
for our circuit, & for this church  
that we may live in God's life  
for all who are seeking life in its fullness  
for all crying out to hear, feel and know God's love

*Silence*

hear our prayers  
**and let our cries come to you.**

We pray for those who are in need  
those who are ill and those who care for them and worry about them  
those who face difficult decisions and those who cannot see a way forward  
those who are grieving and those who sit with them

*Silence*

hear our prayers  
**and let our cries come to you.**

We bring these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus  
who taught us when we pray to say  
**The Lords Prayer**

Offering, and Dedication

**Hymn STF 81 Now thank we all our God**

Blessing

As we leave we receive bread,  
a sign of God's abundance and plenty  
to feed us as we live as God's people in the coming week.

Go into the world  
to feed those who are hungry,  
weep with those who grieve  
and bring healing and hope.

Go into the world  
to see God's abundant life  
wherever you go and in whoever you meet  
and to share God's abundant life  
wherever you go and with whoever you meet

And may the blessing of God  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you now and always Amen