

Keeping Spiritually Fit



Why is it so important for us to worship God?

- Without worship we forget that we have a big God beside us and we live in fear.
- Without worship we forget God's calling and begin to live in a spirit of self-reliance and stubborn independence.
- Without worship, we lose our sense of wonder and gratitude to God. We go through life unaware of God's work in our lives.
- Our understanding of God grows as we reflect on what God has done and respond in worship.

How would you characterize your worship at this time?

Is God getting bigger to you, smaller, or staying the same?

Out and About This Week



Isaiah 40v26, 'Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?'

As you are out and about this week, take notice of all that God has created for you to enjoy. Perhaps you could drive to a special place or take a scenic walk, watch the birds in your garden, or brave the seafront!

Whatever you choose, marvel afresh at the greatness of Almighty God.

Prayer For Today



Heavenly Father, I pray that you would help me to consecrate myself to your purposes afresh. I want to fulfil your assignment for my life. I want to live to make you famous and to bring you all the honour and glory you deserve, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Based on 'If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat' – John Ortberg

Sunday 11th February 2018

Isaiah 40v25-31 Romans 1v8-17 'Waiting'

We each have an opportunity of a lifetime to get out of the boat and walk with God. No matter how much we know about God, or how much we have experienced with him, getting out of the boat is still a big step. There's always risk and the possibility of failure, but it's the only way we'll ever get to soar!

'When human beings get out of the boat, they are never quite the same... Every time you walk on the water, each time you trust God and seek to discern and obey his calling on your life, your God will get bigger, and your worship will grow deeper, richer, and stronger.' - John Ortberg



Verse to Remember



Isaiah 40v31

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint,'



Homegroups (or private study)

Isaiah 40v25-31

Icebreaker: How do you tend to respond to waiting?

- What do you think it means to wait on the Lord?
- In what areas of your life do you find it particularly hard to patiently wait on God for his answer or action? Why?
- Why is learning to wait on God so important as we prepare to get 'out of the boat'?
- What does Isaiah 40v25-31 reveal about the different seasons we will experience during our spiritual walk?
- This passage is full of hope. What does it remind us about:
 - The character of God?
 - How he will sustain us?
- John Ortberg writes, "I strongly believe that the way we live is a consequence of the size of our God. Our God is too small. We are not convinced that we are absolutely safe in the hands of a fully competent, all-knowing, ever present God. That is why so many of us keep living as if everything depends on us."
- Would you agree with this statement?
- When in your life did you most find your understanding of God getting bigger? What prompted this?
- Revisit Matthew 14 v 22-33. What was the response of the disciples after Peter had walked on water? (verses 32, 33)
- What step could you take to 'magnify God' in your life?
- Share together what God has been teaching you through these studies.

If possible, it would be great to finish the series with some worship.

Extra Reading



What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for...

Waiting is not just something we have to do while we get what we want. It is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be. See what the following passages reveal about how we are to

wait and what we are to do while waiting:

Psalms 22v1-5

Psalms 37v7

Romans 8v23-25

Isaiah 26v3

Philippians 1v6

Encouraging One Another



Encourage each other whenever you can by sharing testimonies of God's goodness and power in your life.

It expresses our gratitude to God for what He has done.

It's a reminder that 'no one compares to Him' or 'is His equal'.

It helps us to 'lift our eyes and look to the heavens.'

(Isaiah 40v25,26)

My Quiet Times With God



Read Matthew 14v22-33 again. Think about what you have discovered about yourself and God through this series.

Are you still in the boat? Walking towards Jesus? Feeling rocked by a storm?

Perhaps for the first time, like the disciples, you are really beginning to discover who Jesus is.

Wherever you find yourself, determine that you will continue to take steps towards Him. Remember you can trust Him!