

Children and family talk for 5th September 2021

Good morning, it's great to have you with me as we explore more of the bible together and worship God.

Let's begin by reading Psalm 146:

Praise the Lord!

Let all that I am praise the Lord.

I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth,

And all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. God keeps every promise forever. And gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down. The Lord loves the godly. The Lord protects the foreigners among us. And cares for the orphans and widows, but frustrates the plans of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever. And will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.

Praise the Lord!

And now let's sing: **Be still and know.**

Be still and know that I am God, (X3)

I am the Lord who saves and heals (x3)

In you, Lord God, I put my trust. (X3)

Today we are reading from

James 2.1-10 & 14-17. This is part of a letter James, the brother of Jesus, wrote to Christians. James wrote about putting our faith into action. In this passage he is warning us against prejudice, which is where we might pre-judge someone without really knowing them, because of our own thoughts and ideas. He writes:

"My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?"

For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewellery, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, 'You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor' – well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgements are guided by evil motives?"

Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the kingdom he promised to those who love him?"

But you dishonour the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the scriptures: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. But if you favour some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well' – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."

Now let's sing; **Go tell it on the mountain**

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus is his name.

He possessed no riches,
no home to lay his head;
He saw the needs of others
And cared for them instead.

Chorus

He reached out and touched them,
The blind, the deaf, the lame;

He spoke and listened gladly
To anyone who came.

Chorus

He still comes to people,
His life moves through the lands;
He uses us for speaking,
He touches with our hands.

Chorus

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Let's talk about our Bible verses :

Last week we were talking about the climate crisis and things we can do to help. This week we are talking about including everyone and looking after everyone, no matter who they are, which is another important concern for our church in Rayleigh – we want to be able to say we are an 'inclusive' church.

What does this mean? It means that we want **everyone** to feel included in all we do and be able to come and join in and feel part of our church family. James writes a bit about this in his letter to the Christians. He wanted them to stop looking at the outside appearance of people, judging them by what they wear and how much money they might have, and instead treat everyone equally. This is quite hard to do. We often judge people without even realising we are doing it, and so it can be hard to go against our natural instinct to talk to people we are not sure about, who may dress differently or speak or act in a way we are not used to.

If you have been watching and listening to the news you will know that this country is welcoming in refugees and people who are escaping from Afghanistan following the take over of their country by a group of people called the Taliban. The Afghan refugees have undergone a very difficult and frightening time to come to this country, and have had to leave behind everything they had, including some of their family. If any of these people came to your school or town, how would you welcome them?

James wrote that we should show our faith in God with actions, it's no good just talking, we need to do something. What could we do to help people who have less than us? Perhaps we could donate to a charity, or give to a food bank. Do you have more things than you need? Most of us in this country have what we need to live and a lot more besides, so its worth thinking about what we could share or give away to charities to help others.

Let's talk to God now:

Dear Lord God, you know everything and see everything.

Help us to show your love through our actions, to be generous to others and welcoming to all.

Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

This weeks activity sheet: [activity-sheet-5-september-2021.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-5-september-2021.pdf)