

To help us connect with each other while meeting together is limited by the pandemic, we are going to produce simple bible study notes based on our Sunday sermons. They are designed to be used in small groups on Zoom, members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

Sunday 3 January. Alan Hulme.

Bible Passages

Matthew 4:18-22, Colossians 2:6-15

Theme & Introduction

This is the first of two sermons introducing the parish theme for 2021 of **“God in my Everything”**. We will be exploring how the idea of a Rule of Life (or Rhythms of Grace) can help us grow closer to God in an increasingly busy world.

Questions

1. Read Matt 4:18-22.

Jesus' primary call to the disciples was *“Follow me”*. Matthew makes it clear that they didn't hesitate to do so, although they had all kinds of questions as the following chapters show.

What difference have Jesus' words *“Follow me”* made to your life?

Are there things that still cause you to hesitate a little in your response?

2. Read Colossians 2:6-7.

Professor Tom Wright describes verses 6&7 as the centre of Paul's argument in Colossians. He says, *“Christianity is Christ”*.

What things have helped you over the years to come close to Jesus, to put roots into Him, to be built up in Him, so that your faith is strengthened?

3. *“Church is the plural of disciple”*. If that is true, spiritual renewal of a church requires the renewal of individuals within it. How does that make you feel about your own spiritual growth? Does feeling part of something bigger help you?

4. Do you find that the busyness of modern life threatens to squeeze your spiritual growth? If so, what things have you found helpful in creating space for God?

5. Alan claimed that whether we are conscious of it or not, we all have a *“Rule of Life”*. In other words, we have habits and patterns that shape our relationship with God and with others. Do you agree with that? If so, what sort of things make up the “rule” your life is currently shaped around?

6. How do you react to the phrase *“God in my Everything”*?

Does it feel like that is true in your life now, or are there areas it is harder to let God into?