

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

5 December 2021

Bible Passages

Luke 3:1-6 Isaiah 40:3-5

Theme & Introduction

Fortnightly groups – we suggest you use a previous set of notes as next week’s study will be covering John the Baptist too... But weekly groups, start to get your heads around the message of the man of whom Jesus said, “*Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist*”.

Questions

1. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and then Luke 3:1-6. The New Testament (particularly Matthew’s gospel) constantly emphasises how the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus fulfil prophecies from many centuries previously. The people of Israel were waiting, expectantly, for these things to happen.
What prophecies from Jesus’ ministry can you think of that are yet to be fulfilled?
How expectant of them, and ready for them, are we?
2. How well do you remember the things you promised at your own baptism or confirmation? The current baptism service uses the following words:
Do you turn away from sin? Do you reject evil? **i.e. Turning FROM sin**
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? Do you trust in Him as Lord? **i.e. Turning TO King Jesus**
Turning from sin:
How would you define sin?
How do those baptismal promises affect your life today?
How would you explain them to a world that has very little notion of what sin is?
Turning to King Jesus
What does it mean to trust Jesus as Lord?
How do those baptismal promises affect your life today?
How would you explain Jesus’ lordship over your life to a world that has made “*do it your own way*” one of its primary gods.
3. The questions on the next page are asked of the newly baptised. Look at them together and discuss anything that strikes you. Then, have one person read the questions, and if you are ready, join together in the responses to re-affirm your own baptisms.

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your heart through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.