

Life in all its fullness



This week we are exploring our call to encounter God through our prayers and prayer lives. Prayer is often understood as something we do to God. We pray to God, talk to God and ask from God. The reading of **1 Samuel 3. 1-10** challenges us to listen: “Speak Lord for your servant is listening.”

- How do you listen to God?
- How do you hear his voice?

Read Eph. 1. 15-19 & Eph. 3. 14-21

In the first reading Paul starts by painting a picture of all that God has accomplished for us in Jesus.

- Make a list and, during your prayer time, use it to express your gratitude to God.

In the third chapter of the letter Paul starts by expressing reverence: he kneels before (v14), calls God Father (v14) and expresses faith in his ability to act (v16)

He continues with intercession (v16-19) and ends with an attitude of trust and praise (v20-21).

- Make a list of Paul’s intercessions and during your prayer time use it to pray for one another and the church.

Reading a label is not the same as tasting the product – we can read the label on a jar that says honey, but it is quite different to taste and say hmm it is honey. If you had never tasted honey before, reading “honey” on the label would make no difference. In a sense, we need to taste the goodness, the love and the power of God, to grow in believing that prayer is powerful.



- Tell each other something of your experience of God’s love.
- If you could make one thing easier about praying to God, what would it be?
- How has a prayer that you prayed changed you, or transformed a situation?

We should remember that it is impossible to ask God too much. His capacity for giving far exceeds his people’s capacity for asking or even imagining. For Paul that reality leads him to praise.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine – to him be glory (v20)”

This week we can use Paul’s way of praying in our prayers for others and ourselves.

- First, we REMEMBER - focus on what God has done.
- Second, we express our TRUST.
- Third we ASK to be strengthened, to know his love and presence in all our circumstances, to experience his great power and rejoice in the reality that he can do far more, exceedingly more than what we can think or imagine.
- This will lead us into PRAISE and thanksgiving – he is able!

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James
as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

We ask for your Holy Spirit to guide us into the future. Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all. We make this prayer in the name of you Son Jesus Christ.