

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 29th January 2017

Going deeper

Ephesians is a letter written by Paul, which in its first half gives a wonderful vision of what it is to be a Christian. With this foundation the second half of the book then draws out a number of important applications. These first few verses focus on how blessed we are as Christians.

Read Ephesians 1:3-10

5. List all the blessings that these verses say we have as Christians:
6. Who is the source of these blessings? How many times does Paul mention them?
7. Who is this paragraph addressed to? What can we learn about praising God and prayer from the passage?
8. The word 'riches' is mentioned in verse 7. What else does Paul say about these 'riches' in Ephesians? (See 1:18; 2:7; 3:8,16)
9. How does Paul describe his preaching in 3:8? How does this help us understand what sharing our faith with others is all about?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

Growth Team News

There are three daytime Growth Teams running this year on the dates and times below. Why not try one out at the start of a new year. They are a great place to think further about the Bible's teaching, pray together and support one another. Please use the contacts below if you want to give one a try.

Wed.	10:30am	<i>St. Luke's Avenue</i>	
		<i>Contact Vanessa on</i>	01843 592857
	2:30pm	<i>Upper Dumpton Park Rd.</i>	
		<i>Contact Ced on</i>	01843 583305
Thu.	9:30am	<i>The Vicarage</i>	
		<i>Contact: Willow</i>	01843 607157
		<i>or Audrey</i>	01843 592160

Would you like to discuss the Christian faith more and ask questions, but are too afraid to join an established group? Why not come along to **Christianity Explored** and join a brand new group to look together at the good news of Jesus? Join us this Saturday 10:30am in the Church Hall.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

The Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44-46 (page 980)

Space to take notes on the talk

The Kingdom of Heaven is:

| _____

| _____

| _____

Starter question

- ❖ What is the best bargain you have come across?

Responding to the talk

1. What point from this week's talk did you find most interesting, encouraging or challenging?
2. Read Matthew 13:44-46
 - a. In what ways are the two parables the same?
 - b. What differences are there between the two parables?
 - c. What do the differences show us about how people find the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - d. How do the parables explain why not everyone wants to join the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Read Matthew 13:47-52
 - a. How does this parable help show us the value of being in the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - b. In what other ways would you say being in the Kingdom of Heaven is invaluable?
4. Read Mark 8:34-38
 - a. What are the people in the story willing to give up for the Kingdom?
 - b. In what sense do we have to pay for the Kingdom and in what sense is it free?
 - c. What might we need to give up for the Kingdom today?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. What have you had to give up to be a Christian? What makes it worth it?
11. A friend has been persuaded of the truth of Christianity, but is worried about what they might lose by becoming a Christian. What would you say to them?