

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 27th November 2016**

Going deeper

Ezekiel was a prophet of Israel, who like most prophets was called by God to tell the people to repent in order to be saved from God's judgement. This passage in particular explains the prophet's role very clearly. It also speaks clearly to us of our role.

Read Ezekiel 33:1-20

6. In what sense is Ezekiel, like a 'watchman'? (Note: 'son of man' in Ezekiel is God's way of referring to the prophet.)

7. What is the prophet's responsibility and what is the responsibility of those who listen?

8. What does this teach us about our responsibility in sharing our faith today?

9. How does God say that the people who are weighed down by their sin can live?

10. How does God feel about the death of the wicked? What does he long for?

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

Growth Team News

As it is Advent we are taking a break from 2 Corinthians this week and looking at one of Jesus's parables about His second coming – the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids.

Whilst the daytime Growth Teams are continuing as normal, there are no evening Growth Teams this term. However, our Old Testament Course with Robin Plant continues this Tuesday in church at 7:30pm.



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

Be Prepared

Matthew 25:1-13 (page 994)

Space to take notes on the talk

❖ The Party begins _____

❖ The Party is for _____

❖ _____ on the Party

Starter question

- ❖ What is the worst thing you've missed out on because you were late or delayed?

Responding to the talk

1. If you had to explain the Christian understanding of what we celebrate at Advent, what would you say?
2. Read Matthew 25:1-13 – The Bridegroom
 - a. Who does the Bridegroom refer to? (cf. 9:15; 24:37, 44)
 - b. What does this parable teach us about the coming of the Bridegroom?
 - c. Look at Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:16. What do these passages and this parable suggest about Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 25:1-13 – The Wise Bridesmaids
 - a. What is the difference between the wise and foolish bridesmaids?
 - b. Look at 24:45-47; 25:34-36. What does it mean to be ready?
 - c. What is the blessing for being wise?
4. Read Matthew 25:1-13 – The Foolish Bridesmaids
 - a. How were the wise and foolish bridesmaids the same?
 - b. Why couldn't the wise bridesmaids help the foolish? What does this point teach us?
 - c. What is so terrible about their fate?

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

Applying it to our lives

10. In the light of what we've learnt, what might you say to someone who says, 'I don't want to become a Christian now, I'll convert on my deathbed!'
11. How does Jesus want this parable about his future return to change our thinking about the present?