Drumoak-Durris Lenten Study

May we all come together in prayer.

Dear Lord, we pray for our family and friends, our community and country, for your world. Amen

First Reading

Read the bible reading.

Before you start reading, pause and ask God for fresh eyes to absorb the meaning of the passage. Then read the passage carefully

John 3:1-10

Think about what you’ve read.

Prayerfully let your creativity loose as you engage with this story.

Imagine you are Nicodemus

Why is Nicodemus, the senior man, visiting Jesus?

Imagine what Jesus is asking

What is Jesus asking us to believe?

Are the ways in which children see things silly?

Imagine what John might have been feeling as he wrote it down

Why do you feel John felt he must tell this story?

What are you feeling as you read?

What might you be thinking and feeling after Jesus says these words to you?

Live the story.

The Story says that a man named Nicodemus ‘came to Jesus at night’ Now it’s your turn. Place an empty chair beside yours. Imagine Jesus is sitting beside you. Read the story again. Pause looking at the chair imagining Jesus. Stay like this and wonder about who Jesus is.

Pray

As you remain beside Jesus whisper ‘Jesus are there ways in which I am like Nicodemus today?

Don’t rush this experience. Even if you fell the urge to get up, continue to be still and sit in silence. Anticipate that Jesus will communicate with you. Wait for him and allow him to speak words of promise, reassurance and comfort into your life.

Second reading

Read the Bible Reading

Before you start reading, pause and ask God for fresh eyes to absorb the meaning of the passage. Then read the passage carefully.

 1 Corinthians 13: 9-12 (Maybe expand it to include 12:31-13:12)

Many of us have heard this scripture before. It is used at almost every wedding. It’s words are encouraging and uplifting for a couple and we hope that the couple and ourselves do not forget them in the following years.

Paul starts these words of love back at verse three which Eugene Peterson translates in the Message as ‘So, no matter what I say, what I believe and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.’

Have that thought in your mind as you answer the following questions

1-      What is Paul saying about our Adult understanding of God?

2-      Is it compatible with what Jesus is saying to Nicodemus?

3-      What has maturity to do with faith and belief?

4-      Why do we believe Paul felt he must tell us this story?

Consider the list that defines love in the earlier part of Paul’s words.

As you read the lines out loud, ask yourself:

“In what ways am I living this out well?”

“In what ways do I need to improve?”

Pray

Then pick one need and tell God about it. Ask him to help you recognise when you are not displaying love as described in Paul’s words. Ask him to help you make changes that you will see this aspect of love on display more often in your life.

Write the part of the definition you want to work on in a visible place, a place where you will see it each day and remind you of what you and God are doing together.

A prayer to close with

Dear Lord, we pray for your Holy Spirit to enter all hearts and focus your wors of love within us. We pray that we may be content with what we have, we pray for all those who are truly struggling at this time, we pray that we can all think and help each other especially the poorer/hungrier and less fortunate. Amen.