



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 1.

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-12; Psalm 119: 105-112; Hebrews 12: 1-13; and
Matthew 25: 14-30

Our Journey

Consider and discuss St Aidan's history and background. What has brought the Church to her current situation? Are there any similarities, lessons that can be taken from the Isaiah passage and applied? The passage describes the imminent return of the people of God from exile. They are about to embark on a difficult journey.

Reflect upon the Church's strengths and weaknesses and its ministries. Consider these ministries in the light of the Gospel passage from Matthew. How might the Church use her gifts for God's glory? Where might we 'speculate to accumulate' for God's glory, others benefit and our own blessing?

Our Vision

Read the Hebrews passage and discuss what has 'obstructed' the view of Christ; what has stopped the Church fixing her eyes on Him?

Do you agree with the principle that Pastor Dave is teaching; that our being effects our doing? Does God's being effect His doing?

Read Hebrews 12:2 and Romans 12:2. How might focusing on Christ develop us as individuals and as a Church (how might this help us overcome our 'obstructions')?

Our Way Forward

Read the Psalm passage. What key principles can be found in this Scripture to guide the Church step by step? The lamps of the day would only shed sufficient light for a step at a time.

If we are to live **Real Lives** as Christians we need to be a **Real Church**. To be a **Real Church** we need to know our **Real God**. Our first focus therefore needs to be upon God. What aspects of God have these studies brought to light to help us in this approach?

Conclusion

Once we have read the Lord's Word and spent time in His presence it is good to decide on at least one action to put in place, one aspect to apply in our lives. What one action will you take this week?

Some suggestions for the following week:

- Share with someone the action you will apply
- Pray
- Commit to the sermon series and notes to see what God reveals
- Partner with someone for the next seven weeks or start/join a small/house group
- Put a 'Post It' on the Real Lives board in the Narthex to encourage others

Real God, Real Church, Real Lives