

BEHOLD THE MAN Discussion Questions

April 2019, Lent into Easter (07 April - 04 May)

Our last theme, [In The Neighbourhood](#), encouraged us to look around our local communities as part of our Lenten reflections - to seek God's face and God's plans amongst the people and places near us. As we draw towards the end of Lent, in anticipation of Easter, we take what we have learned about our neighbourhoods and we focus back on the incredible person of Jesus Christ.

During the next few weeks we are taking up an interesting phrase from the King James version of the Bible. Baiting the crowd, Pilate the Roman Governor of Palestine, points to Jesus the prisoner in all his vulnerability and shouts, "Behold the man!" It is such an enigmatic phrase, for just a few years earlier, John the Baptist addressing, perhaps a different kind of a crowd, had prophesied such a moment when he invited a group of people to look beyond the man, as he cried "Behold the Lamb of God".

We would like the phrase *Behold the man* to weave its way through all our reflections during this season of Lent and Easter. In many ways these two voices echo across the centuries inviting us to look more closely at Jesus of Nazareth and discover again for ourselves what it really means to talk about the Word being made flesh, God's unspeakable gift to a broken world.

Over the next few weeks let us think more deeply about this amazing truth. God the creator of all things has come to dwell with his creation and longs to empower each and every one of us to live our lives to the fullest capacity and then to enter into a new life after death encountering love and acceptance that is beyond our capacity to imagine. So what John Lennon sang about in his song *Imagine* is only but a foretaste of what God has planned for all those who love him and yet do not know him. And those who long for justice to come? Their day will surely come for the Lamb has opened the scroll of history and has redeemed time itself (see Revelation 5).

The following discussion questions are designed to accompany the [Behold The Man Resource Pack](#) to help adapt the material for small group work. They are divided into 4 parts to correspond with the 4 weeks of the Daily Worship theme.

These questions are just a guideline and there is no need to go through all questions in a single session, or in the following sequence. Feel free to pick and choose what interests your group.

Part 1: Can you see it?		
<p>Read Isaiah 43: 16-21</p> <p>What is the new thing God is doing in this reading?</p> <p>What is the new thing God is doing in your eyes today?</p>	<p>Read Psalm 126</p> <p>What has happened that, for many of us, so much of the fun and joy of living God's way has been lost?</p>	<p>So what was it that Mary and Peter got and that Simon and the rich man missed out on?</p> <p>Read John 12: 1-6, Matthew 16: 13-17, Luke 7: 36-48 and Mark 10: 17-27.</p>

Part 2: What are you looking at?		
<p>Out of the seven images of Jesus mentioned in the notes (see below) which one speaks the most to you?</p> <p>As a group choose a few to look at and read those extracts to further explore the image.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Rejected One (Isaiah 53: 1-8) 2. The Beloved One (Isaiah 42: 1-9) 3. The Glorified One (John 12: 20-36) 4. The Betrayed One (John 13: 21-32) 5. The Serving One (John 13: 1-17, 31-35) 6. The Crucified One (John 19: 1-19, 42) 7. The Buried One (Matthew 27: 57-66) 	<p>Which image do you think speaks best to our world today?</p>	<p>Why do you think it is important and necessary for God to be like us?</p>

Part 3: Now can you see it? You get like what you look at!		
<p>Read 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26</p> <p>Paul writes here about the resurrection, a concept that can be difficult to get our heads around. Let's take moment to think about the process of <i>revelation</i>.</p> <p>What difference does it mean and make to faith if we talk of something being <i>revealed</i> rather than logically understood?</p>	<p>Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17-20</p> <p>What is the relationship between believing in resurrection and the idea of a new creation?</p>	<p>Read 1 John 1: 1-4</p> <p>Why is John so convincing as he shares his experience of Jesus?</p>

Part 4: It's contagious! Resurrection is breaking out everywhere!		
<p>Read Acts 5: 27-32</p> <p>What is it that is so strong about the Christian experience of God?</p>	<p>Read Psalm 118: 14-29 and John 14: 15-21</p> <p>Why is joy so much part of the Christian experience?</p>	<p>Read John 20: 19-23 and Philippians 4: 6</p> <p>Why are we invited not to be anxious about what is happening in our lives?</p>