

Hello Café Explorers,

It doesn't look like we are getting together any time soon so here attached is September's Café Explore. Take some time out with coffee, cake and a comfortable quiet space then explore, knowing we all can be fed from God's Word.

Keep Safe

God Bless

Marie

Café Explore September 2020

Hi everybody, Autumn is upon us and yet again we are entering the flu season with added Covid on top! So here is the monthly Café Explore, get a coffee, maybe some cake and then sit in a comfortable chair to explore the following.

This month I have chosen a 'tricky' scripture and hope it encourages you to reach out to others over the next month.

Questions to ponder

- Have you managed to keep in touch with those you love over the last few months? Think about those people picturing them on Skype or Zoom or hearing their voices as you do in a phone call. Do you remind them of the love that God has for each of them – maybe signing off with 'God Bless'. Hope that thinking of these people has made you smile!
- What about keeping in touch with those we only know a little – Neighbours, people who regularly sit in front, beside or behind you in church, families at Messy Church.
Can we bring them to mind? Do we remember their names?
Thank goodness for those who have helped us keep in touch, Tracy Squire, our children, families and youth worker, Lesley Newton with the church newsletter and others via What's App letting us know of those needing prayer.
Hope thinking of these people made you smile too!
- It's easy to remember all these people but Jesus reminds us that God loves everyone.

Scripture - Luke 6:27-36

As usual read the passage noting any key verses, phrases or words that strike you.

Love for enemies

²⁷ 'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

I wonder if verse 31 is the one that strikes you?

Mark Twain, the author, was once asked, “Don’t you have a problem as a Christian with all those bits of the Bible that you don’t understand?” He replied, “It’s not the bits that I don’t understand that cause me problems. It’s the bits that I do understand that give me problems!”

Jesus is teaching his disciples – ***that includes us!***

Thinking time again!

Do you hate anybody?

Are there people in this world that you would describe as your enemy?

Have they wronged you personally, or are there things about them that you just don’t like?

Are your friends the only ones you do good things for?

In today’s passage, we see how important it is to treat others, especially our enemies, with the love of Christ.

We should treat other people as God treats us.

At the present time a virus is said to be our enemy. Mmm maybe it is those who don’t follow the rules or guidelines that we see as our enemies? Enemy may be too strong a word but what can we do to show mercy and love?

If it is safe to do so, remind and encourage people to do the right thing – we may not get the response we want. Confrontation can be risky so what can we do instead?

We can pray – for the wrongdoers as well as for ourselves.

Heavenly Father

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen

Or

Remember to pray the whole of our Lord’s prayer – after all He did give his disciples - and that’s us, the words for when we didn’t know what to pray!

God Bless

Marie