

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 5 May 2024

SURPRISED BY GOD

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Risen Christ, we bring to you in prayer today, people who are suffering in mind or spirit. We remember especially those facing long and incurable illness; those cast down by the cares and sorrows of daily life; those who have lost faith and for whom the future is dark. We pray for the women who have died from domestic violence, and those that live with it daily, we ask for your divine help, to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Have you ever been surprised by God? Share your experiences?

Worship 🎵

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

All Hail King Jesus

or choose a few of your favourite hymns

Word: Psalm 98

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvellous things;

his right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made his salvation known

and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

³ He has remembered his love

and his faithfulness to Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

burst into jubilant song with music;

⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,

with the harp and the sound of singing,

⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—

shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

the world, and all who live in it.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,

let the mountains sing together for joy;

⁹ let them sing before the LORD,

for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

and the peoples with equity.

Word: Acts 10.44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

COMMENTARY

Something really incredible happens when Peter was still speaking these words about faith in Jesus. Cornelius and his friends and relatives are silently and respectfully listening to Peter, and yet as soon as he offers the choice of the gospel, through Jesus The Christ, everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins, Cornelius and the other Romans believe in the name of Jesus.

They do not shout it out, they do not declare their faith loudly, this has occurred in their hearts. And while Peter was still speaking, the Romans believe, and immediately the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message!

Q 2 The gospel is for all people. Even Peter struggled with this. Why do you think that all are included in our community?

Q 3 When the Holy Spirit comes it is an incredible experience. Hearts are strangely warmed, doors are opened, people are loved unconditionally and our World is a better place. Do you agree? Please discuss.

Q 4 Today we still struggle with stereotypes and fixed ideas. How can we challenge this?

Works

Pray together for our many women who have died from domestic violence and those that live with it daily.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to your unending love, we pray for all victims of family violence asking for your help and guidance, to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Shalom

Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)