

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this year's Summer Service Series, "Storms and Picnics"! The series runs from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

This year we focus on the 6th Chapter of John's Gospel which has:

- Jesus taking a young boy's picnic to feed the crowd;
- the disciples impatiently and impetuously taking off on an evening journey across the lake and ending up terrified by a storm which Jesus calms after walking across the water towards them;
- long conversations about what the sign (miracle) of the feeding may mean and how Jesus is the Bread of life.

We hope you'll find these services helpful. They are intended as a gift ready to be used as they are with just a couple of decisions. Sermons will be added on the website over the next week or so.

**Each week's service follows the same pattern** with the same wording for prayers to encourage familiarity and a greater depth of engagement. It would be great if churches, worship leaders and preachers could follow this through the series. A copy of the congregation prayer & hymn sheet will be put on the circuit website so that you can print your own. If this causes a problem please contact Rachel and she will print you a set. The same sheet can be used each week.

At the end of each service it is hoped that **a loaf of bread will be broken and shared** as a symbol of God's feeding and equipping us for our discipleship. This should happen during the blessing. **Church stewards and those leading worship should agree who will provide the bread.**

The circuit will provide postcards of each of the images used in the services so that they can be given out in the appropriate services on a first come first served basis. **Churches need to get their bids in to Rachel quickly (preferably by 13th July) for how many they need to ensure adequate supply. (Please be realistic about numbers we're likely to have around 200 per week for the circuit as a whole)** - Please also return any that are left over to Rachel afterwards for later use.

The decisions to be made are:

- Whether to project the picture or rely only on the postcards - your worship will be enhanced by projection
- Whether or not to have discussion during 'time to reflect'
- If you are using flowers or candles for the prayers of thanksgiving

For each service the church will need to arrange:

- postcards are available to be given out
- there are sufficient copies of the prayer & hymn words to be used (these can be reused each week)
- a bowl of water is available set at the front of the church with either candles or flowers to float in it
- a loaf of bread to be broken and shared during the blessing

Added extras

Rachel has photos and videos from the circuit study day which are available to use. The video may be more appropriate for small groups.

Postcards etc will be available at the Circuit BBQ . Please let Rachel know how many you need by **July 20th**.

Have fun!

Love and blessings,

Rachel