

- Family service

If my people... (1)

- Start with a question:
 - when does stuff go wrong in your life?
 - (wanting to explore whether folk feel that it is when they have failed...)
- Look at a couple of verses from the passage we are looking at this morning:
 - (image: verse)
 - read it in full later to get the context...
- When does God suggest it would be a good idea that people pray?
 - (When he "shuts the heavens... locusts... plague...")
 - withdrawal of blessing, sending of trouble...
 - noticing that this is what God says will happen... **not if, but when!**
- Who is to pray? (my people, called by name)
- What are they to do if they want to pray (humble themselves, seek his face, turn from wicked ways)
- What will God do? (hear, forgive, heal)

If my people... (2)

- Its about where our centre is:
 - self or God
 - the "turning from wicked ways" is not a condition but a sign of where our expectation of help comes from
 - are we trying to make ourselves good enough for God to help?
 - or are we putting him first, and as we do so looking to him for help?
- Write prayer - newspapers...:
 - find a bad thing in the newspaper, and write a one sentence prayer, asking God to "heal" that bad thing that is part of our land...
- *Have sheets and pens so prayers can be brought together...*
- Think about when and how we can pray and cry out for our land
 - where were prayers offered - in the Temple
 - where is the Temple now - in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit...
 - *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; (1 Corinthians 6:19)*