

- (Conclusion of series on the Lord's prayer)

Chat with the Children: Shapes

- Go through the shapes on the data projector:
 - circle, triangle, square, pentagon, semi-circle, hexagon
 - talk about characteristics of the shapes, names, how many sides
- And shapes can be useful to help us remember certain things..
 - Nike slide
 - use the hexagon as a reminder of the phrases of the Lord's Prayer, a way of carrying it around in our heads!
 - so we can pray it not just together on a Sunday morning...
- Sing: All I once held dear (723) then O perfect love (screen)

Introduction

- What have we done as we've worked our way through the Lord's prayer since the summer?
 - maybe its just me, but I've sometimes found it hard to stick with the fact that this is a prayer!
 - does that sound daft?
 - each phrase presents a theme, a theme that needs exploring and unpacking... and then at the end briefly connected back to how we might pray it!
- Want to do a bit of a review of the whole, not getting sucked down into just one phrase
 - and then, critically, briefly reflect on how we pray this prayer!

Reviewing the Lord's Prayer

- Hexagon as an aide memoire:

The Father's:

- Character
 - Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...
 - Father, glorious, to be worshipped
- Kingdom
 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...
 - God's kingdom (what, who, where, when, why), the excitement and desire that he would reign and rule - his praise, his presence, his people, his provision, his priorities...
- Provision
 - Give us this day our daily bread....
 - for God is reliable, and he invites us to rely on him (not our own resources; manna and quail)
- Forgiveness
 - And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...
 - we are forgiven debtors, let us forgive those indebted to us
- Guidance
 - And lead us not into temptation...
 - (I didn't characterise this dimension as "guidance", but its one way of looking at it)
 - recognition of our helplessness, and an appeal to God for relationship, to go with us (lead)
- Protection
 - but deliver us from evil...
 - who can deliver us except the one who is (a) able (might hand), and (b) willing (he cares for you)

Praying the Lord's Prayer

- Conviction that praying the Lord's prayer has a power
 - it has the ability to stick with us, giving us a pattern we are left with even when otherwise we are "out" of prayerfulness - witness the many times people in extremis will murmur along with me praying the Lord's Prayer at a hospital bedside...
- Go through the prayer (slowly!) and allow God to pause you at a particular phrase the resonates with your situation on the day:
 - eg you work through it and come to "your will be done..." and you "notice" that you have a particular decision to make during the day... take that issue in particular to God
 - eg you work through it and come to "forgive as you have been forgiven..." and you "realise" that you haven't sorted out some issue, some relationship with someone else and you need to...
- Another way might be to:
 - identify an issue that is of concern to you - health concerns, an elderly relative who needs care, your children's future, money worries, world poverty, a missionary you have committed to praying for... it could be anything!
 - and then, phrase by phrase, apply the Lord's Prayer to that situation
 - remembering the Father's Character, love, in heaven
 - remembering the Father's Kingdom, his reign and desire
 - remembering the Father's Provision
 - remembering the Father's Forgiveness, how he treats us and wants us to treat others
 - remembering the Father's Guidance, where he would have us walk
 - remembering the Father's Protection, looking to him for care and deliverance and not anywhere else
- Had planned on giving us each small, wallet size cards with the hexagon on:
 - so that we could have them in our bibles, in our wallets...
 - will still try to!
 - but carry the hexagon round in your head
 - and pray this Lord's prayer...
- *Sing: What a friend we have in Jesus.... take it to the Lord in prayer*