

Chat with the Children

- What's it like being ignored?
 - when teacher ignores you?
 - when you are left out of a game?
 - when no-one wants to listen to what you've got to say - eg littlest brother...
- Exploring today those times when it feels like God is ignoring us

Introduction

- Bad day **images**:
 - what was "the worst day of your life"
 - some trauma, some disaster, some heartache, some horror...
 - war, sickness, pain, fear, grief...
 - or even the more mundane challenges of busyness, stress, caring responsibilities for those who drive us up the wall....
- When the rug has been pulled from under us, when we're falling and we don't know where the bottom is...
 - the particular hurt of feeling ignored, forgotten, left out to dry
- And when it feels like its **God who is ignoring us...**
 - thoughts all the way up to **is he real?**

What David Feels

- Forgotten/deserted/cut off
- Without a future (**how long**)
- Tormented/sad/doubting (**wrestle with my thoughts**)
- Defeated
- Sume up as **hopeless**
- But notice who he is processing his feelings with
 - who he is telling...

What David Asks

- First, **for an answer** - he's presumably been asking already and not receiving/not hearing an answer...
- And the answer he looks for is **hope**:
 - life, rather than death (**its not mere self-justification**)
- And rescue from the circumstances that have led to his feelings of isolation and fear of death:
 - **the opposition of his enemies**

Who David Trusts

- Who do you trust in time of crisis?
 - someone - family or friend - with whom relationship is secure, who will be able to help
- What is trust and where does it come from?
 - trust fragile, and humanly easily broken
- **David's trust in God is not easily broken!**
 - notice David's asking and trusting comes **before** God's answer...

How about us?

- What do we feel? **how honest are we, with ourselves and with (safe) others**
- What do we ask? **hope...**
- Who do we trust?