

## GOD'S PROMISE

### Reading John 3; 1-17

**Starter** What promises are important to you?

### Sermon Outline.

Bishop Peter started by asking us to consider what we would like to see happen in our church in the future.

Responses varied from more people, younger and disabled people and for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

If more people are to know about Jesus Christ how are they going to know? Only if we tell them for we must not work on the assumption that someone else will.

We now live in a society where many do not know Him for as John James said, you cannot call people back to something they have never had.

This is an enormous job, so where to start? Where did Jesus spend most of his ministry? Mostly where he was. Therefore we should start where we are.

(We were asked to notice next Sunday when we left for church to see how many curtains were drawn, or people were walking their dog or shopping, to realize we do not have to go far to see the context of God's mission.)

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.**

John 3:16

We need to be his agents but it is the Holy Spirit who does the work.

Jesus chose people who were busy such as fishermen and tax collectors and this should encourage us to meet people amidst our busy lives, and trust that he will give us the gifts to tell people. (It is not the end of the world if some may not like to be told.) But the most important ministry is to PRAY.

In this second Sunday in Lent it is a time to repent and reflect and to discern God's call on our lives.

Our own personal testimony as to what God has done for us, is so much more powerful than a member of the clergy saying the same thing.

We are the greatest ministry team God has got.

Telling people about God in the power of the Holy Spirit is really powerful.

### Questions of application

1 Do you remember someone talking to you about their faith that had a strong impression on you? (Possibly church members past or present.)

2 What groups do you mix with in the course of a week or month?

3 Have you a strategy to bring your faith into ordinary conversations?

(If not consider and help each other with easy conversational links you may use.)

4 If someone is interested in your faith, have you a 2 minute testimony you could use?

If not discuss relevant key points to help each other, and try to prepare one at home, and maybe share it later.