



Feb 2018 Week 1

"The Transforming Friendship"

(Exodus 20 & Luke 15)

Welcome: Who "laid down the law" in your home when you were a child? In what ways did you try to "bend the rules"? What were the consequences? What rules were unbending?

Worship: Say together the following Celtic Prayer...

Lord, You have always given
bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor, today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened
this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart, today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken
when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now, today I
believe.

Lord, You have always kept
me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Word: SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING WHAT IS HELPFUL FOR YOUR GROUP

God's Instructions...READ: Exodus 20:1-2

- Exodus 20:1 – Why does God give His people the commandments?
- Exodus 20:1 – do you think the commandments are only for Christians or do you think that they are for everyone? Why?
- Jesus said that the commandments were summed up in two commands: Love God and love your neighbour. So, why do Christians need the 10 commandments? Is love not enough?
- Exodus 20:2 – Notice that the commandments are all addressed to an individual "you". Despite the fact that they are God's Law for His people, all the way through they are in the singular. Why?

God's Friendship...READ Luke 15:11-32

- Luke 15:12 & 17 – what brings the Prodigal to his senses and when he does what does he realise? What does it teach us?
- Luke 15: 22-23 – in what way does God satisfy our needs: physical, emotional and spiritual?
- Luke 15:24 – why do you think Jesus did not speak about the party ending? In what way does this describe our experience?
- "This day nothing will come my way that God and I cannot handle." Have you found this to be true? If so how?

Prayer: Pray for the sick, the troubled, the bereaved. Pray for those in our congregation serving in law enforcement.

Witness: Read the commandments every day till the group meets again and try to obey them.
