

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others** **(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)**

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

### **1 Relationships**

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

### **2 Health**

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

### **3 Wealth**

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

### **4 Education**

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

### **5 Church**

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

## **Something Old, Something New** **Ephesians 4:17–32**

### **Purpose:**

To consider the purity of conduct and communication necessary for maintaining unity in the body of Christ.

### **WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)**

What part of your personality would God like to change?

### **WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord** **(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)**

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

### **Pray your “thank you” to God**

**WORD (Aim for 40—45 minutes)**

“It's easier said than done” is a cliché that certainly applies to Christian unity. Remnants of the “old self,” (v. 22) too often get in the way. Somehow we manage to say the wrong thing or act the wrong way. Paul's aim in this passage is to help make Christian unity a little more “done.”

1. Read Ephesians 4:17–32. Paul continues to flesh out what it means for his readers to live a life worthy of their calling (4:1). How does he contrast the life of the Gentile (unbeliever) with that of a true believer?

2. Paul says the Gentiles are afflicted with a spiritual condition known as hardness of heart (4:18). Explain the meaning of his diagnosis.

3. What are the effects of this condition (vv. 17–19)?

How have you struggled with hardness of heart?

4. What does it mean to put off the old self (4:22 )?

5. How do your attitudes affect the way you live (4:23)?

6. In verses 25–32 what does Paul tell us to put off, what does he say to put on and what reason does he give for doing these things? (If he doesn't explicitly state each of the three parts for a given topic, fill in what is implied.)

7. How do these instructions show the importance of healthy communication in promoting unity?

8. Which of the commands in verses 25–32 do you have the most difficulty following? Explain.

9. What practical steps could you take this week to improve your relationships with others in this area of difficulty?

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