# Discussion and Reflection Questions Week beginning Sunday 13th March 2022 (Lent 2)

**Getting started Questions:**

* What stood out for you in the sermon, Lenten study or other spiritual input you heard, read or saw this week?
* What has been some of the challenges of the week just gone?
* Where have you seen God at work this week?

**Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18**

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ 2But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+15.1-18&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-363a)] 3And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ 4But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ 5He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ 6And he believed the Lord; and the Lord[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+15.1-18&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-367b)] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ 8But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ 9He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ 10He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

**3Qs**

* When have you doubted God’s promise or presence?
* Are there times in your life where you struggled to see God at work in the moment, but see God’s presence more clearly in hindsight?
* What scriptures and stories sustain you in times of doubt?

**Psalm 27**

1The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
    whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+27&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-14287a)] of my life;  
    of whom shall I be afraid?

2When evildoers assail me  
    to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
    they shall stumble and fall.

3Though an army encamp against me,  
    my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
    yet I will be confident.

4One thing I asked of the Lord,  
    that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
    all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
    and to inquire in his temple.

5For he will hide me in his shelter  
    in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
    he will set me high on a rock.

6Now my head is lifted up  
    above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
    sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

7Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
    be gracious to me and answer me!  
8‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’  
    Your face, Lord, do I seek.  
9    Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
    you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
    O God of my salvation!  
10If my father and mother forsake me,  
    the Lord will take me up.

11Teach me your way, O Lord,  
    and lead me on a level path  
    because of my enemies.  
12Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
    for false witnesses have risen against me,  
    and they are breathing out violence.

13I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
    in the land of the living.  
14Wait for the Lord;  
    be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
    wait for the Lord!

**3Q’s**

* “*the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*” (Isa. 61.3 KJV) – the Psalms are beautiful songs and poetry that can lift the broken spirit. What Psalm or song lifts your spirit?
* How is the Lord a “*stronghold for your life*”(v1)?
* What fears and struggles do you bring to God?

**Philippians 3.17-4.1**

17Brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.17-4.1&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-29422a)] join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.17-4.1&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-29425b)] is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21He will transform the body of our humiliation[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.17-4.1&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-29426c)] so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.17-4.1&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-29426d)] by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4 1Therefore, my brothers and sisters,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.17-4.1&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-29427e)] whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**3Q’s**

* How do you follow in the footsteps of Jesus?
* Would an observer watching your life for a week know that you are a follower of Jesus? Why?
* What challenges does being a Christian bring to your life?

**Luke 13.31-35**

31At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ 32He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+13.31-35&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-25543a)] “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” 34Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+13.31-35&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-25546b)] you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

**3Q’s**

* Prophets would often call our injustices and corruption in society, and call people back into a right relationship with God. When have you felt compelled to speak out? How did your family, friends, or other church members respond?
* What stories/explanations do you have for how the world is organized? For inequality in society, locally and worldwide?
* What do you use of money and buying choices say about your proprieties when it comes to justice?

**Prayer of the week**

Spirit of all truth, who brooded over the waters of creation, we pray that you would reveal to us the truth of our lives, their beauty and their holiness, their sin, brokenness, and shadows; we pray that you would sanctify us in out thoughts, words, and actions, that we may love you and our neighbour more deeply, and work with you for the renewal of creation. Amen.

*By Rev. Eron Perry*