

HOPE GROUPS



INTERGENERATIONAL PILGRIMAGE WALK 4 - MAP

Pilgrimages are religious journeys which people take to learn more about God and faith. Whilst we are not currently able to go very far and can only leave home for an hour, we can still go on pilgrimages.

Why not decide on a pilgrimage walk and invite someone else or another family to do the same walk. Even though you are not able to walk it together, you can share what you discovered and talked about afterwards.

BEGINNING

Begin each walk in the same way:

- gather together quietly
- light a candle saying, 'This candle reminds me/us that God's light will never be extinguished.'
- pray:
*Creator God,
Guide my/our feet as I/we walk this pilgrimage today.
Open my/our eyes to see your goodness.
Open my/our ears to hear your call.
Even though I/we walk alone,
I/we know others walk this pilgrimage too.
Amen*
- blow out the candle and start your pilgrimage
- at the end of each section, ask for a volunteer to lead a prayer if you are a family or pray your own prayer if you are a sole pilgrim.

Find a local map either on a phone app, a printed map or use the computer.

HOSPITAL

Find a hospital or doctor's surgery on the map.

I wonder how the health care workers are feeling at the moment. The protective equipment is very uncomfortable to wear, they must be scared of catching COVID-19 and taking it home to their own families. I wonder how they cope with being hyper-vigilant because of infections. They want to keep everyone safe.

Think back to a time when you have cared for someone who is sick. How did you feel to care for someone else, someone who is depending on you? What did you learn about yourself from that time?

Think back to a time when you have been sick and dependent on someone else for care. How did that feel? What did you learn about yourself from that time?

Share the story of the Good Samaritan. Not only did the man help the injured traveller, he gave him space when he was safe and healing. He recognised the need he was meeting was not his own need but the injured traveller's, and moved on rather than sticking around so he could be congratulated and thanked. I wonder how that felt for the traveller and the Good Samaritan.

LUKE 10:25-37

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 26 He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' 27 He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' 28 And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' 30 Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' 37 He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

SCHOOL

School buildings are closed at the moment and students are learning from home but they are still major complexes, major landscapes in our communities.

What was/is your school like?

What did/do you enjoy about school?

What did/do you not enjoy about school?

If you are no longer at school, are you still in touch with people from that time?

Did you go to school locally or in another country?

If you are still at school, how do you keep in touch with your friends at the moment?

There are no stories (that I can remember!) about schools in the Bible but there is this story in Luke about how Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem and was

found engaged in deep discussion with the religious leaders in the synagogue. The synagogue was where the boys learnt about the Jewish Scriptures and Laws.

LUKE 2:42-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' 49 He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

RESTAURANT

Do you have a favourite café or restaurant? Maybe somewhere you go to celebrate birthdays or other special times. Can you find it on the map?

We cannot visit restaurants at the moment although we can pick up take-aways. We cannot celebrate special events, but we can plan some when it is safe to gather again.

When was the last special event or day you celebrated in a restaurant?

When did you last share cup of coffee or a milkshake in a café?

Can you remember who you were with?

Offer a blessing now for them.

Times are hard for those working in hospitality or owning hospitality businesses. It is hard work and customers do not always remember their manners. It is often casual work which means workers do not have the same benefits as permanent employees such as sick leave or holiday pay. They lack job security as not all hospitality workers know in advance how many shifts they will be given that week.

Feasts, banquets and parties feature in the parables Jesus told about God. How many can you remember?

This is one from Luke's Gospel when Jesus told the people to invite not just their friends to a celebration, but those who were usually excluded from celebrations, indeed from life itself.

LUKE 14:12-14

“ He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

PARK

Where is your nearest park? Find it on the map.

Have you found one you can walk to as part of your daily exercise?

Do you prefer to ride a bike, walk or run?

How do you feel when you go into your local park?

Do you have a favourite park?

Is there a BBQ or playground equipment?

What animals and birds do you see?

Do you visit the park with others or do you prefer your own company as you walk or run? Do you listen to podcasts or do you prefer the silence?

Our parks and open spaces have become really important during COVID-19 as we try to get out into the air even for a short time. Many people are walking around their local neighbourhoods in ways they have never done before. If you are able to get out and walk, I wonder if you will carry on after COVID-19.

Even Jesus needed time alone to recharge his batteries. He found quiet places to pray to God, to listen for God's word.

LUKE 4:33-36

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

And even God took a break on the 7th day!

GENESIS 2:2-3

“ ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

What do these mean for us?