

5th July – FitFoM #8 – Legacy**Deuteronomy 34:10-12 and Hebrews 11:24-27**

1. **Prophetic vision:** How do you respond to the idea of having eternal vision? is this a new idea?
2. **Ladder prayer:** Did you see, hear or have any impression during the prayer about ascending the ladder?
3. **Time:** Have you thought about giving more time to God to hear from Him for your life?
 - a. How will you do this?

Further Questions:

1. Hebrews says Moses "persevered because he saw him who is invisible."
 - a. What do you think that means in practical terms? How can Christians "see the invisible" today?
2. The speaker suggested that living with eternity in our hearts changes how we live today, not just how we think about death.
 - a. In what ways does an eternal perspective help us face the challenges, disappointments or uncertainties of everyday life?
3. Moses repeatedly went up the mountain to receive God's vision before leading the people.
 - a. What can we learn from his example about seeking God's direction before making plans or decisions?
4. The talk distinguished between human plans and God-given vision.
 - a. How can we discern whether an idea or ambition is simply our own, or something God may genuinely be calling us towards?
5. Deuteronomy ends by praising Moses, yet the New Testament points us to Jesus as the greater prophet whom we must listen to.
 - a. What difference does it make that our ultimate focus is Jesus rather than even the greatest biblical leaders?
6. The speaker argued that humans are unique because we are created with a soul and for relationship with God.
 - a. How does remembering that we are made in God's image shape the way we value ourselves and other people?
7. The challenge was to ask two questions:
 - a. "Jesus, what are you saying to me?"
 - b. "Jesus, what are you saying to our church?"
 - i. Spend some time discussing both questions. Where might God be leading you personally, and where might he be leading your church?

Included on the next page is the text from Jenny's "Different ways we hear from God" sheet:

Different Ways We Hear God

Still, small voice	1 Kings 19:12 (Elijah)
Audible voice	Genesis 2–3 (Adam & Eve); Ex 20:1; Ex 33:11 (Moses)
Nature/creation	Psalms 19:1; Psalm 97:6; Romans 1:20 (creation testifies to God)
'Unusual' signs	Exodus 3:3 the bush on fire (commissioning of Moses)
Dreams	Genesis 37:5 (Joseph); Matthew 2:12-13 (warning)
Sleeping vision	Daniel 7:1
Scripture	2 Timothy 3:16
Motion picture	Acts 10:10-20 (Peter & call to the Gentiles)
Visions/trances	Acts 9:10–16 (Ananias & Saul's conversion); Acts 16:9-10 Macedonia call; Acts 22:17 (warning)
Open heaven	Ezekiel 1:1; Matthew 3:16-17 (baptism of Jesus); Matthew 17:5 (Transfiguration)
Out of body	2 Corinthians 12:1–4 (caught up to heaven)
Pictures, 'inner eye'	Ephesians 1:18 (eyes of the heart enlightened)
Impressions, perception	John 2:24–25 (Jesus knew what was in a person)
Revelation, disclosure	Romans 16: 25–27 (manifestation of what is hidden)
Circumstances	Acts 16:7 (the Holy Spirit prevented)
Preaching	Acts 2:37 (leading to repentance)
Prophecy	1 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Peter 1:19–21
Words of knowledge	1 Corinthians 12:8; Acts 5:3 (revelation)
Words of wisdom	1 Corinthians 12:8 (strategy, guidance)
Jesus	Acts 9:3-5 (Saul); Daniel 3:25 (the fourth man in the fire)
Angels	Judges 6:12 (Gideon); Daniel 9:21 (Gabriel); Matthew 1:20 (Joseph); Luke 1:11 (Zechariah), 26 (Mary)
Translation	Acts 8:39 Philip transported in the Spirit for the mission

28th June – FitFoM #7 – Perseverance
Numbers 14:1-24

1. What is one daily habit or routine that has become so automatic you hardly think about it anymore? Is it helpful or unhelpful?
2. Read Numbers 14:1–4 and 20–24. What stands out to you about the Israelites' response to their situation? Why do you think they were so ready to go back to Egypt?
3. The talk suggested that some seasons of life feel like "the wilderness"—not dramatic, just ordinary. Have you experienced a season like that? What made it difficult (or fruitful)?
4. Moses consistently took the people's problems to God before anything else. When you face frustration or disappointment, who do you naturally speak to first—God, other people, or yourself? Why do you think that is?
5. The talk argued that perseverance is built in ordinary times rather than in moments of crisis. Looking back, can you think of a habit or discipline that strengthened your faith over time?
6. Stephen Covey's "Box 2" describes activities that are important but not urgent. Which spiritual practices most easily get squeezed out of your week? What usually pushes them aside?
7. Moses' own wilderness years in Midian prepared him for leading Israel. Can you think of a time when a seemingly ordinary or difficult season later proved to have been preparing you for something God had planned?
8. Hebrews says Moses "persevered because he saw him who is invisible." What helps you keep your eyes on God when you cannot clearly see what he is doing?
9. If you were to become more of a "Box 2 person" this week, what is one specific habit you could begin or strengthen? How could the group help keep you accountable?
10. Spend some time praying for one another:
 - for perseverance in ordinary life,
 - for faithful spiritual habits,
 - for eyes to recognise God's work even in the "wilderness",
 - and for courage to trust God's promises when progress feels slow.

21st June – Bitesize – Child of God – New Future

Revelation 21: 1-7

1. Looking back over the series

- a. Over the past weeks we have explored a new origin, status, relationship, direction, and future. Which of these aspects of being a child of God has been most significant or encouraging for you, and why?

2. The future and our anxieties

- a. The talk began by highlighting some of the worries people have about the future. What future concerns or uncertainties do people commonly face today? How do these affect the way people live?

3. Reading Revelation 21:1–7

- a. What stands out most to you from John's vision of the new creation? Is there a particular phrase or promise that captures your attention?

4. Intimacy: God with us

- a. The talk suggested that the greatest promise of heaven is not a place but the presence of God himself. Why do you think God's presence is presented as the greatest blessing of the future?

5. Perfection: Everything made new

- a. Verse 5 says, "I am making everything new." What aspects of our broken world make you long for this promise to be fulfilled? How does this promise give hope in the present?

6. Permanence: A secure inheritance

- a. The talk contrasted earthly securities with the permanent inheritance God gives his children. What earthly things are we tempted to place our security in? How does Revelation 21 challenge or reshape those priorities?

7. "It is done"

- a. What difference does it make that God says, "It is done" rather than "I hope this happens" or "I'm working on it"?
- b. How does God's certainty affect your confidence in his promises?

8. The future breaking into the present

- a. The talk said that eternal life begins now, not simply after death. In what ways can Christians experience God's future promises in part today?

9. The Specsavers illustration

- a. The illustration suggested that Revelation 21 gives us God's perspective on the future. What circumstances or challenges can make it difficult to see beyond today's problems? How can God's promises help us view those situations differently?

10. Living as children of God

- a. If you were fully convinced that your future is secure in God's hands, what might change in the way you live, pray, serve, or face difficulties this week?

Optional prayer question:

Which of the three promises—**intimacy** (God with us), **perfection** (everything made new), or **permanence** (an eternal inheritance)—do you most need to hold onto at the moment? How can the group pray for you?

14th June – FitFoM #6 – Relationship**Exodus 19:1-21**

There is probably enough material here for several CG sessions. Please be selective on what you look at!

1. Discipleship key words in this series – providence, formation, encounter, obedience, trust, relationship, perseverance and legacy. Which is primary?
2. Think about a loving human relationship. What are the characteristics e.g:
 - mutual love
 - know each other's character
 - shared experience
 - spend time with one another
 How does this mirror our relationship with God?
3. v3. Moses desired to speak with God and to hear from God. Perhaps look at Luke 10.38-42. Listening and service > we need to listen first. We read the bible not as an educational but a relational activity. How does this work for you?
4. A relationship is initiated by God. See v3 and Exodus 3.4. The Christian life is an encounter or a series of encounters initiated by Jesus and prompted by the Spirit. Does it help to see our relationship with him in this light? A loving God waiting for us to turn (Father in Prodigal Son) and/or Shepherd searching for the lost sheep.
5. v9, 16-18. Majesty of God. Awe. Are we in danger of losing our sense of awe? Our relationship with God is different from our human relationships. How does this work for you?
6. v4. The key verse in the Chapter. Jesus calls us to freedom – from the power of sin, from fear etc. Freedom from....but for...Chapter 19 comes before Chapter 20! Relationship comes first before the Law.
7. v4. A shared history. A long loving human relationship is strengthened by a shared past. How is this true in our walk with Jesus?
8. Character. God is faithful. We may stray but he is with us – loving us. A covenant keeping God. See v5. How does the idea of a covenant keeping God strengthen our relationship with him:
 - Covenants may be conditional or unconditional; but they are all gracious promises of our loving heavenly Father
 - Genesis 9.9-17 – unconditional covenant - not to destroy the earth
 - Genesis 15 – unconditional covenant – there will be numerous believers + the grant of the land (the Promised Land)
 - Genesis 17 – conditional covenant – “As for me...as for you”
 - Jeremiah 31.31-34 – unconditional covenant - a new relationship written on our hearts
 Our passage – Exodus 19-24 – conditional covenant – promise to be Israel's God but condition of consecration to the Lord as his people
 There is much more to explore on the whole covenant theme!
9. v10 and 14. “Consecrate”? What does that mean to you?

10. Speak to God. See Luke 11.1-4 > know that Jesus prays with us. The work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also prays for us. See Luke 22.32
11. Moses spoke to God, heard from God and shared what he heard. The vertical and the horizontal. How does that work for you?
12. Goal > v 5 and 6 > “treasured possession...kingdom of priests...holy nation”. What does this mean for you?
13. How do we in post NT times see and experience a covenant keeping God?
14. William shared a story of Reuben King and “Ten thousand reasons”. How did you react to that story? Are there songs or hymns which bring back for you any particular experience or story? (The YouTube can be found by going to YouTube and searching for 10,000 Reasons Cllr. Wisdom Da Costa.)
15. William finished his talk with a challenge and an invitation:
 - The challenge > to deepen our relationship with God
 - The invitation > Jesus saying (in the power of the Holy Spirit) “yes, we can”
As the Nike slogan says “Let’s do it”

Take time to pray

7th June – FitFoM #5 – Through the Waters – Trust

Exodus 14:10-22

The Israelites, having seen God's great power at work in their deliverance from Egypt, and after being led by the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day, now find themselves with the sea at their backs and the might of the Egyptian army bearing down on them.

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt that there was no escape from a bad outcome?
 - a. How did you get through it? What did you learn from the experience?
2. Read Exodus 14:10-14 and Acts 12:1-16. Is there a common thread in these stories relating to (lack of?) trust in God?
 - a. The Israelites had seen God's power at first hand in delivering them from Egypt, and the church in Jerusalem had seen God's power at first hand in the resurrection. Why do you think they were so quick to doubt? Is this lack of trust something that you can identify with?
3. What is the antidote to fear? Is it hope? If it is, what grounds do we have for hope? What does Jesus say about fear (eg Luke 12 v 4-7 and 27-32)? Where should our focus be? (Luke 12 v 31)
4. If in Exodus, God destroyed the Egyptian army that had the power of life or death over the Israelites, and paved the way for their trek to the promised land, what did he destroy at the resurrection of Jesus? What path does this open up for us?
5. In both of the passages read in Q2 above, God is seen to act with great power. Do we still expect God to act powerfully today? Are we expectant enough?
6. Mike touched on Jesus's response to Peter's failure to trust him at his trial. Have you ever experienced failure in trusting God? Do you think that failure can be forgiven? Are you open to transformation?
7. What does trust in God, moving away from fear, look like, both personally for you and for the church as a whole?
8. Richard talked a week earlier about our desire for guaranteed outcomes, for certainty. In both of the passages read in Q2, the outcomes were not what the people involved were expecting. Instead of focusing on outcomes, should we be looking at whether God is with us and how he wants us to change? How might he want us to change as a community at St James approaching a new season? How might he want you to change?

31st May – FitFoM #4 - Obedience**Exodus 4:29 – 5:9**

1. Read Exodus 4:29–31.
 - a. Why do you think the Israelites responded with worship when they heard God's promises?
 - b. What does this reveal about God's character and his concern for his people?
2. God's answer to Moses' insecurity was not "You can do it" but "I will be with you" (Exodus 3:12).
 - a. Why is God's presence a stronger foundation for obedience than confidence in our own abilities?
3. The sermon suggested that "the proof of God's faithfulness came after Moses obeyed."
 - a. Can you think of examples in Scripture or your own life where understanding or assurance came after taking a step of obedience?
4. Read Exodus 5:1–9.
 - a. What surprises you most about Pharaoh's response?
 - b. How does this challenge the idea that obedience to God should make life immediately easier?
5. The sermon stated: "Obedience often reveals the reality before it changes that reality."
 - a. What do you think this means?
 - b. Have you ever experienced a situation where obeying God exposed a problem before it led to growth or healing?
6. When things became harder, both Pharaoh and later the Israelites opposed Moses.
 - a. How do you usually respond when doing what you believe is right leads to criticism, misunderstanding, or disappointment?
7. In Exodus 6, God repeatedly says, "I will..."
 - a. What responsibilities belonged to Moses, and what responsibilities belonged to God?
 - b. Why do we often struggle to distinguish between the two in our own lives?
8. Discuss the "postman" and "rower" illustrations.
 - a. Which responsibilities are you currently carrying that may actually belong to God?
 - b. What practical difference would it make to release those responsibilities to him?
9. Moses continued to obey even when the people would not listen (Exodus 6:9; 7:6).
 - a. Why is perseverance such an important aspect of obedience?
 - b. Where might God be calling you to continue faithfully even though you cannot yet see results?
10. The sermon ended by pointing us to Jesus as the greater obedient one.
 - a. How does Christ's obedience unto death encourage us when our own obedience feels costly, unnoticed, or unsuccessful?
 - b. How does the cross reshape our understanding of what "success" looks like in God's kingdom?

Closing thought / prayer: "Lord, what are you asking of me?"

What answer do you think God is giving?

24th May – 10am United Pentecost Service**Acts 2:1-4**

1. When you hear the phrase “spiritual gifts,” what emotions or assumptions come to mind?
 - a. Excitement? Scepticism? Anxiety? Curiosity?
 - b. Why do you think Christians sometimes either ignore spiritual gifts or overemphasise them?
2. The talk highlighted that many spiritual gifts are wonderfully ordinary and practical — such as service, compassion, generosity, and administration.
 - a. Which of these “ordinary” gifts do you think the church often overlooks?
 - b. Why are these gifts just as important as more visible ones?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 together.
 - a. What stands out to you about the source and purpose of spiritual gifts?
 - b. What does this passage teach us about unity and diversity within the church?
4. The talk said: “The true evidence of the Spirit is not spiritual excitement but submission to Jesus as Lord.”
 - a. Why is that an important correction?
 - b. How can we keep Jesus at the centre rather than becoming fascinated by gifts or experiences?
5. Paul describes the church as a body where every part matters.
 - a. Have you ever felt your contribution to church life was too small or insignificant?
 - b. How does Paul challenge that thinking in 1 Corinthians 12?
6. Which gifts or qualities do you most appreciate in other people within the church?
 - a. What does this reveal about the kinds of gifts the church particularly needs right now?
7. The talk asked several reflective questions:
 - a. Where do I naturally strengthen others?
 - b. Where do others affirm fruitfulness in me?
 - c. What opportunities has God placed before me?
8. Spend some time discussing:
 - a. Where have others seen God use you?
 - b. Are there gifts in your life that may have become dormant through fear, comparison, insecurity, or busyness?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 together.
 - a. Why does Paul place the chapter on love in the middle of his teaching on spiritual gifts?
 - b. What can happen when gifts are exercised without love?
10. The talk said: “The goal is never: ‘Make me impressive.’ The goal is: ‘Lord, make me useful.’”
 - a. How does that reshape the way we think about serving in church?
 - b. What practical step could you take this week to use your gifts to edify “build” the church?
11. Spend time praying together:
 - a. Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to every believer.
 - b. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill each person afresh.
 - c. Pray for humility, love, courage, and willingness to serve.
 - d. Ask God to reveal and awaken spiritual gifts within the group.
 - e. Pray for wisdom to know how to use those gifts faithfully for the building up of the church.
 - f. If appropriate, invite people to gently encourage one another by sharing where they see God already working through them.

17th May – 10am United APCM Service**1 Corinthians 15:57-58**

1. Paul begins with “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - a. Why is it important that Paul starts with what Christ has already done before speaking about what Christians should do?
 - b. How does living from victory rather than for victory change the way we approach the Christian life?
2. Richard described the Christian life as “steady, deliberate, consistent steps in the same direction.”
 - a. Which parts of the Christian life most require this kind of perseverance?
 - b. Why do you think we are often drawn more to novelty, quick results, or dramatic change?
3. Paul tells believers to “be steadfast, immovable.”
 - a. What are some things in today’s culture that can cause Christians to drift spiritually?
 - b. What helps someone remain rooted in Christ over many years?
4. The sermon suggested that “ordinary faithfulness is powerful.”
 - a. Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - b. Can you think of someone whose quiet consistency has shaped your own faith?
5. Paul says, “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.”
 - a. What might “giving yourself fully” look like in everyday life, not just church activities?
 - b. What tends to compete for our wholehearted devotion?
6. The sermon spoke about how God often works through “sustained formation” rather than instant transformation.
 - a. Why can it be discouraging when spiritual growth feels slow?
 - b. Have you ever noticed growth in yourself or someone else only after a long period of time?
7. Paul writes “in the Lord your labour is not in vain”.
 - a. Why do Christians sometimes feel that their efforts are unnoticed or ineffective?
 - b. How does the resurrection give meaning to even small or hidden acts of faithfulness?
8. The talk contrasted “spiritual novelty” with perseverance.
 - a. How can churches or Christians sometimes become distracted by constantly chasing something “new”?
 - b. How do we balance openness to God’s leading with the call to remain steady and rooted?
9. The sermon highlighted repeated practices such as prayer, worship, repentance, serving, and trusting.
 - a. Which of these rhythms do you find easiest? Which hardest?
 - b. How do daily habits shape us spiritually over time?
10. Application / Challenge Question
 - a. Where in your life do you most need to take “steady steps in the same direction” now?
 - b. What is one practical commitment you could make this week to remain steadfast in your walk with Christ — even if the progress feels small or unseen?

10th May – FitFoM #3 - Encounter**Exodus 3:1-15**

1. Share your own stories of Encounters with God (Only for those who wish to – nobody should feel they have to). Remember that it can be an Encounter with the Father or the Son or the Holy Spirit. Some people find it easier to relate to one of the Trinity than the others.
2. Have any of you experienced an Encounter which has led to a 'mission' with God? This should be seen in the broadest sense – not necessarily a calling to the ministry or to the mission field.
3. If none of your Encounters with God led specifically to a mission with Him; did they have an effect on your life and faith? If so, in what way?
4. Do you relate to the idea that God often uses us most when we are at the end of our resources? Do you have an example to share?
5. Although the talk was entitled Standing on Holy Ground, Ian did not address this particular aspect of the story. What does Holy Ground' mean to you? Are there places where you feel (or have felt) a strong sense of God's Presence?
6. God describes Himself as 'I am who I am'. What do you understand by this phrase?
7. Do you expect to Encounter God every day? If not, why not and is there something that could change your level of expectation?
8. Moses was a man of confused identity – neither fully Egyptian, Hebrew, nor Midianite. Neither leader, prince, nor shepherd. However, as God revealed more about who He was, Moses began to discover his true identity too.
 - i. Does this remain true for us today?
 - ii. Pray together and ask God, through revelation of His character, to begin to reveal your own selves too.

3rd May – FitFoM #2 - Formation**Exodus 2:11-25**

1. The literature of Exodus serves to convey themes of deliverance and identity. This text highlights Moses not only as a future leader but as someone who grapples with his identity in two worlds: that of a Hebrew and that of an Egyptian. Moses' name for his son in v22 is an autobiographical reflection: "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land"
 - a) In what sense should a Christian be able to say the same thing?
 - b) What might our lives look like if we (a) don't and (b) do think of ourselves as foreigners in a foreign land?
 - c) And to what extent do you think of yourself as "a foreigner in a foreign land"?
2. Verse 11 of the reading says: *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.*
 - a) Describe the choice Moses was faced with in this verse. what the options were and what the implications of each option would have been for him.
 - b) In what respect are Christians faced with a similar choice today and what examples can you give of that choice presenting itself, as it did for Moses?
3. Even though Moses' impulsiveness led to murder, God was still determined to use him as His chosen instrument.
 - a) How is God's grace displayed in this?
 - b) How does this bring comfort when we are faced with our own sins and failures?
4. Formation means personal growth and development / the development of something into a particular thing or shape.
 - a) Discuss your understanding of *spiritual formation*
5. What people and experiences did God use to equip Moses?
 - a) What in your life might God be using to equip you for service?
6. Read verses 23-25.
 - a) How are these verses comforting?
 - b) What do they teach us about the character of God?
7. How does knowing that God is mindful of your pain and faithful to His word impact your faith journey?

Extra question if time to spare:

8. Verse 15 says that Moses "*sat down by a well.*"
 - a) Think of how many significant meetings at a well we see in the Bible.

26th April – FitFoM #1 - Providence**Exodus 1:22-2:10 & Acts 7:20-22****1. First Impressions**

- a. When you hear the word **providence**, what thoughts or feelings come to mind? How would you explain it in your own words after hearing this talk?

2. God at Work in Difficult Circumstances

- a. Moses was born into danger, violence, oppression, and uncertainty. What does his story teach us about God's ability to work even in dark or chaotic situations?
- b. Have you ever seen God bring something good out of a difficult season?

3. Hidden Seasons

- a. The sermon suggested that God is often working when nothing obvious seems to be happening.
- b. Have you ever had a season that felt unimportant, delayed, frustrating, or confusing — but later realised God was doing something in you?

4. Looking Back

- a. Looking back over your life, where can you now see moments of God's guidance that you did not recognise at the time? What changed your perspective?

5. Nothing Is Wasted

- a. The sermon said, *"Nothing is wasted in the hands of God."*
 - i. Do you find that encouraging, difficult, or both? Why?
- b. Are there experiences in your life that you struggle to believe God could still use?

6. Free Will and Providence

- a. How do you understand the balance between "our responsibility to make choices and freedom to act" and "God's Providence and guiding hand at work in our lives"?
- b. Where do you find tension in that balance?
- c. How can we hold both truths together without denying either?

7. Control

- a. Where do you most like to feel in control of life (plans, family, work, finances, future, relationships, health, etc.)?
- b. What happens in you when control is taken away?
- c. How does trusting God challenge that?

8. Present Season

- a. The sermon asked, "What if this season is not pointless? What if this season is preparation?"
 - i. How might that perspective change the way you see your current season of life?

9. Trusting Without Seeing

- a. Why do you think trusting God in unseen seasons can be harder than trusting Him in obvious blessing?
- b. What helps you keep trusting when life feels unclear?

10. Prayer and Response

- a. What is one area of your life where you need to say this week: **"Lord, I do not understand what You are doing, but I choose to trust You."**
- b. How can the group pray for you in that?