

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?