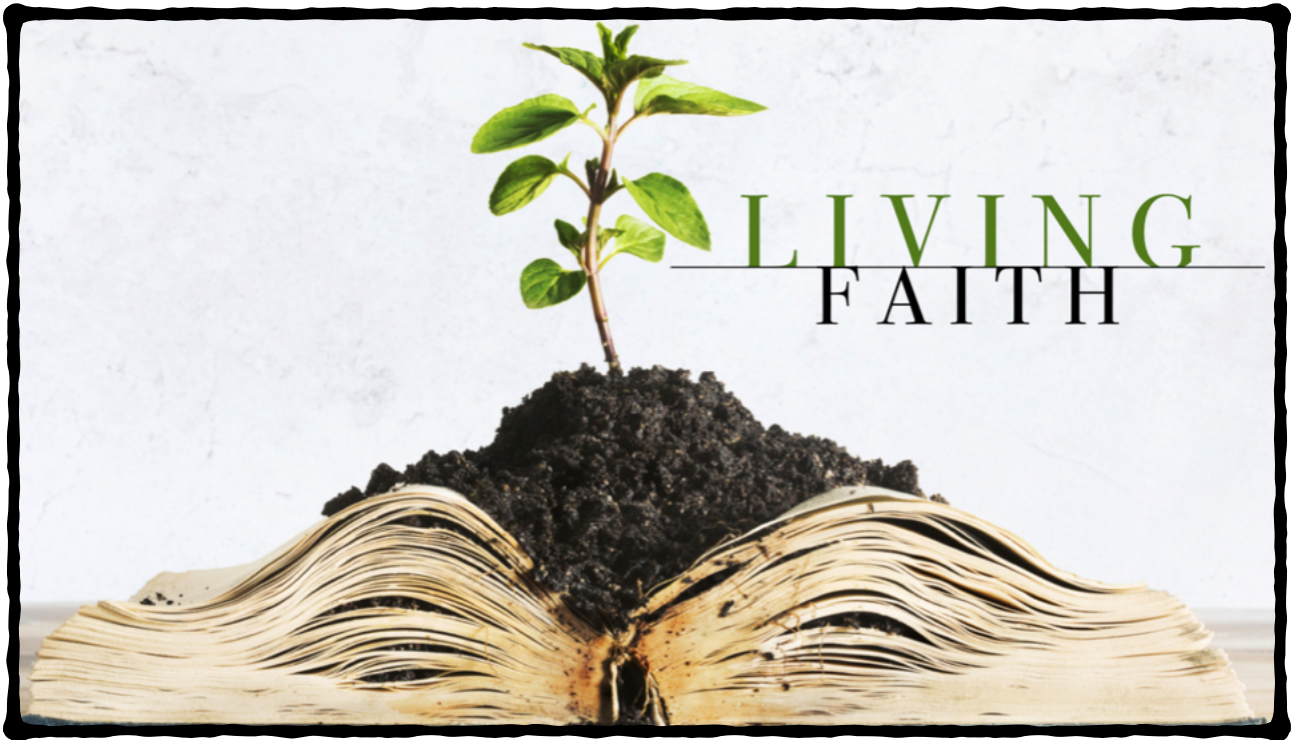

WORSHIP @ HOME



TARGET SETTING

Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music <http://www.viewpure.com/66USuf9BaYc?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still and speak to the Lord.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

O Blessed Lord, accept this burning candle as a sign of our faith and love for you. Make us open to your Word. Make us loyal and faithful to you, regardless of the circumstances of our lives.

ALL: Amen.

Bible Reading:

A reading from Matthew 22:35-40

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

A message:

So far in this series we have seen the importance of firm foundations, being steadfast in our faith and having a vision. Let us consider what gives this vision clarity?



At school and work we are asked to set new targets, to meet targets and to review targets on a regular basis. Targets or goals give us focus and direction. They also provide a benchmark for determining success. Indeed, setting targets is good for all aspects of our life and the Bible provides all sorts of targets to support Christians along the way God wants them to go. They are often called laws or rules and the 10 Commandments are a frequently referred to example.

Some of them are easy to achieve, whilst others may present a challenge. Few of us are likely to commit murder or steal, but the temptation to lie (to give false testimony) may not always be as easy. Matthew 22:35-40, neatly summarises what is expected into two ‘smart’ targets. They are:

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
2. Love your neighbour as yourself.

The Bible also recognises that we may sometimes fall short of meeting our targets and Christians believe that God still loves us no matter how we perform against these targets. God is there to pick us up, dust us off and gives us another chance. What great

reassurance this message brings! Life has interesting twists and turns, but God's Word is our compass and His unconditional love, the outstretched hand we need to encourage us along the right path.

A time for reflection:



What are the key targets in life?
 How do you feel you are doing?
 How do you respond when you fail to meet a life target?

Discuss these quotes with your family:

'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream' C.S. Lewis

'If you don't know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else'
 Lawrence J. Peter

Take time now to rest in the Lord's presence before prayer.
 Listen to 'Lead my Lord'. A traditional hymn by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Rest in the Lord's presence.

<http://www.viewpure.com/nlwxmEKdlQw?start=0&end=0>

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
 For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.*
 (Words from Psalm 5:8, 4:9)

Closing prayer:

Dear God,
 Thank you that you have given us guidelines and targets to help us live our lives to the best of our ability. Please forgive us when we fail to live our lives as you wish us to. Help us also to forgive others along life's journey. In the name Jesus, give us the strength to try again.

ALL: Amen.

Now in the words our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.**