

Hopeful – Week 5 V2

Act on Poverty

Ask Ahead: a question to consider before this session

Has there been a time in your life when you had to hold on to hope in difficult circumstances? Where did you find hope when you needed it?

Scripture Reading: Luke 4.14-21

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”



Those of us with lived experience of poverty face additional barriers to accessing mental health services, whilst being more likely to experience mental health challenges.
(Source: Mind, 2021)

67% of people aged 16-24 believe that their generation will be worse off than their parents’ generation.
(Source: Barnardo’s, 2019)

Reflection

Listen In: Carlos Valle, Field Advisor, Comision de Accion Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras

CASM’s mission is to address economic, social, environmental and political injustice in partnership with communities in Honduras. With the support of Christian Aid, CASM is working with coffee farmers and honey producers to develop climate-smart practices as the region feels the effects of the climate crisis.

Hear from Carlos Valle, Field Advisor on these projects, as he tells us about the project and the hope for the future that he sees as he works with farmers day-to-day.

Jess discusses what drew her into campaigning and what gives her hope for change. She tells us how lament and hope are not opposed for her and how she balances realism about our human failings with faith in the vision of God's Kingdom come on earth. Hear from Jess about her work with Christian Aid and the signs of hope that she sees in our world.

Get Inspired: The Baptist Union of Wales and the BRACK programme in Zimbabwe

Hear from Simeon Baker, Director of Mission for the Baptist Union of Wales about their work with the BRACK programme in Zimbabwe. Their 'Talents of Hope' initiative, supported by Christian Aid, is connecting global neighbours in rural Wales and North East Zimbabwe. BRACK helps communities in Zimbabwe develop their resilience, through new agricultural techniques, training, community groups and new technologies.

Discussion Topics

1. Carlos Valle says that hope can start with something as small as a 'grain of sand'. What small things give you hope?
2. Following Jess Hall's talk
 - a. Have you ever been involved in any kind of activism? If so, what was your experience? If not, how do you feel about taking that step in the future?
 - b. Can you think of a time when you have been bold and tried something new? What gave you courage in that situation?
 - c. Which movements from the past inspire you when you think of people who have changed the world?
3. Discuss in your group who you could meet with political power in your area - ideally your MP and/or your prospective parliamentary candidates. What issue would you raise in this meeting?

Closing Prayer

Jesus said:
 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim release to
 the captives and recovery of sight to
 the blind,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's
 favour."

As God's people,
 let us reaffirm our hope and our task
 God's kingdom is coming
Proclaim Jubilee

For those pushed into poverty
Proclaim Jubilee

For those weighed down by debt

Proclaim Jubilee

For those living in fear

Proclaim Jubilee

For those treated as less than human

Proclaim Jubilee

For those who have lost hope

Proclaim Jubilee

For those held captive by cynicism

Proclaim Jubilee

For all who need to hear good news

Proclaim Jubilee

May our proclamations and our prayers be accompanied by advocacy and action. God's kingdom come!

Amen