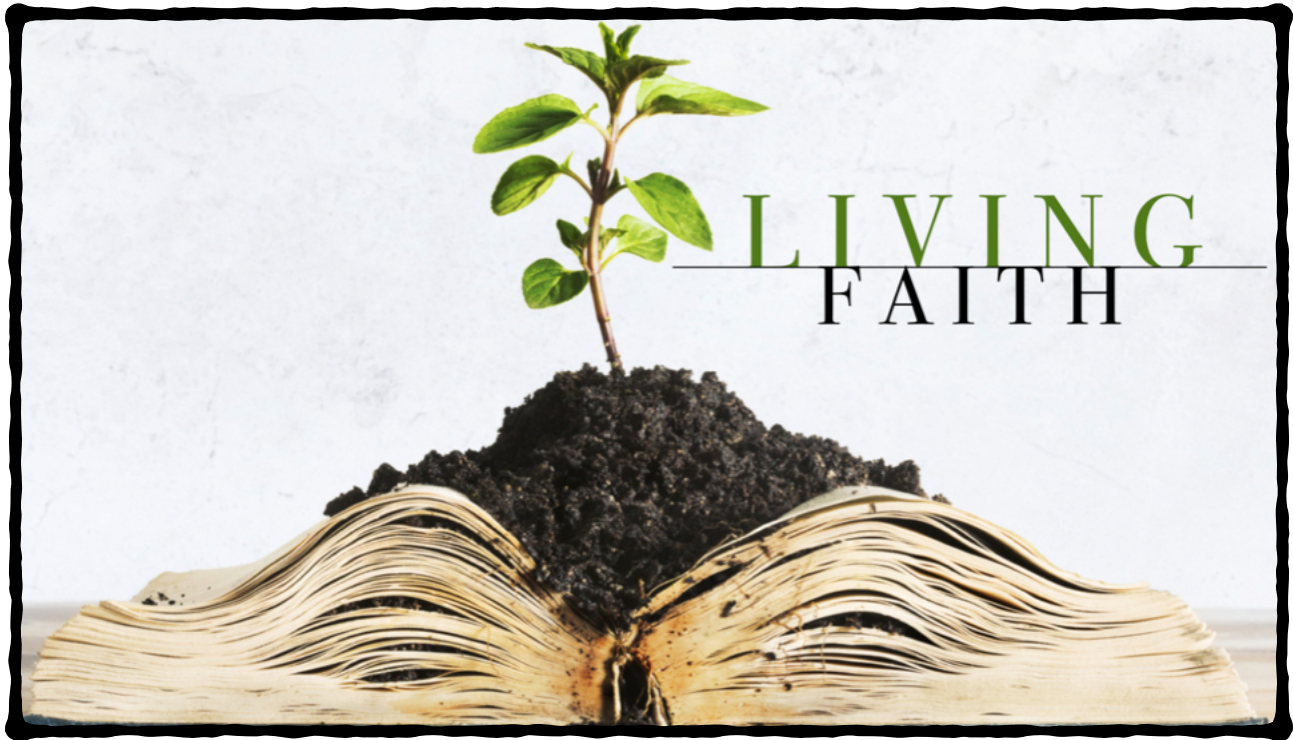


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# WORSHIP @ HOME

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## FOLLOWING YOUR FAITH AGAINST THE FLOW

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### 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 John 17:14-18

I gave them your message, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. Just as I do not belong to the world, they do not belong to the world. Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

## A message:

Last week, with the help of the story of the Wise and Foolish Builder, we considered the foundations on which we build our lives and what we need to 'underpin' them. In an ever-



changing world, this is something that needs revisiting time and time again. We must regularly take time to analyse which are the vital blocks upon which our lives are built upon.

Have you ever played the game Jenga? The pieces you decide to take away make a difference as to whether the tower grows or falls. Imagine that your life is represented by a Jenga tower. Each block represents a value or an activity. Check your foundations! The Bible describes

Jesus as the cornerstone on which His church (the people of God) was built. He is also the cornerstone on which each individual Christian builds their life. Once a cornerstone is set in a building, it becomes the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything is aligned to it. In our lives, when we prioritise Jesus, he becomes our standard and measure. Christian Youth groups often use 'What would Jesus do?' (WWJD) as a helpful measure of how to respond in any given situation and how we act in a manner that demonstrates the love of Jesus. It is also a useful measure against which to evaluate our lives and consider the pieces that detract from a Christ-centred life.



This all may sound so easy! But many in today's society still reject the cornerstone. You may feel as if you are **going against the flow**.

Let me tell you about a morning walk by the river. I remember walking passed a group of ducks in a swollen river padding against the flow just to stay where they

were. A family stopped to laugh and take a photograph. When I looked closer, I could see that the ducks were actually bobbing their heads into the water to catch insects. They were feeding, something that was entirely missed by the family. A little further down the river, I passed a moorhen swimming with the flow. In its beak it was proudly carrying a coloured piece of plastic bag, something from the modern world to improve its nest. We all know that in fact this shiny piece of plastic could ultimately kill the bird.

Think back to today's reading, sometimes following your faith or your beliefs can cause ridicule from those who do not understand what you are doing. Sometimes chasing after and gathering up the things of this world, the things that everyone else has or wants, can put you at risk. We are to stand strong for the truth of the Word that we have been given with Christ as the cornerstone we can trust, regardless of the conflicting ideas of this world.

### **A time for reflection:**

Do you ever get made fun of for something you believe in? Is it fair?

Do you laugh at others when you do not understand what they are doing?

Do you choose what everyone else chooses to do or do you choose what is right for you?

Do you look beyond the things of this world? Is Christ your cornerstone?

Listen to Cornerstone: <http://www.viewpure.com/izrK-erhDdk?start=0&end=0>

The message is simple. The words of this song encourage us to put emphasis on and find hope in Christ the cornerstone, regardless of our circumstances.

**Closing prayer:**

Dear God,

Help us go against the flow. Let us build our lives with you as our cornerstone. Help us to make choices on what is right and not on the basis of what others might think. Keep our hearts safely in your light of your Word. We ask this in your name.

**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.**