

Collect: God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Hebrews 4.12–16

¹² The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mark 10.17–31

¹⁷ As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and

mother.'" ²⁰ He said to Jesus, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹ Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields – but with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

Post Communion: God our Father, whose Son, the light unending, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Bible Reading Fellowship

Since we began in 1922, our vision has been to encourage people to explore and understand the Bible, enjoy a deeper experience of prayer and apply what they learn to their lives day by day. We're passionate about helping people to grow in knowledge, faith and love as they walk each day with Jesus Christ, and we see something of the transforming power of God at work in the lives of ordinary people.

Today we work in four areas:

Growing disciples

One of the best-known passages in the Bible is Jesus' great commission in Matthew 28. His instruction was not to go and make converts, or church members, or supporters but disciples. We're seeking to help Christians do just that as they discern God's truth in his word, ask for his help in prayer and aim to lead lives that honour him in every way.

Church outreach in the local community

Through Messy Church and The Gift of Years we provide tried-and-tested models for outreach and community engagement that are being used by churches throughout the UK and, in the case of Messy Church, in more than 20 other countries.

Teaching Christianity in primary schools

As a professional education service provider, we work face-to-face with children and their teachers, enabling them to explore Christianity and the Bible creatively and confidently. The team works at both regional and national levels to help shape the future of primary RE.

Children's and family ministry

Through the Barnabas in Churches and Faith in Homes websites, as well as through our books, we're supporting churches and families as they explore faith with under 11s. We are also delighted to announce that Parenting for Faith is now part of BRF.