

Live your faith 24-30 May 2020

Read, pray, reflect at home this week

 This week's Bible readings Acts 1.6-14 • 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 • John 17.1-11

Glorify my name

Notes on the Bible readings

- As the Gospel reaches the climax, John presents Jesus' last 'speech', which is in fact a prayer, crying out to his Father the desires of his heart, that through his actions to come God would be glorified. There is something here of the relationship between Father, Son and Spirit lifting one another up to be glorified; something the theologian Richard Rohr calls the 'divine dance' of the Trinity, in which each part glorifies another, but never itself.
- The term glory - often associated with heavenly light - has other meanings. The crucifixion will be the hour in which Jesus is glorified. Jesus has also glorified his Father by finishing the work he was sent to do. And Jesus even says that he has been glorified in his disciples. Glory is deeply relational and mutual: Jesus asks the Father to glorify the Son so that the Son may glorify the Father. Glory is something to bestow on another.
- Here is the great challenge for us today, as followers of Jesus that we would continue to lift him up, and bring glory to God through our actions and our relationship with one another, echoing the relationship between the Trinity – as Jesus prayed: 'that they would be one, as we are one'.

Superheroes

In many superhero films, one (or more) of the heroes dies, or is prepared to do so, to save the world. Think of examples – especially, any examples where the hero dies and returns to life. What connections and similarities can you see between the fictional heroes and Jesus? How much influence do you think the Christian story has had on the fictional? How might we use people's favourite superhero story to tell something of the Christian one?

FREE [worship at home](#) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you think these three figures are doing?
- ▶ What sort of things do you 'glorify' by the way you live?
- ▶ How best can we lift each other up?



A prayer of approach

*Lord of all glory,
we come before you seeking your wisdom
that we may glorify you through our thinking;
we come seeking your love,
that we may glorify you through our emotions;
we come seeking your strength,
that we may glorify you at all times;
we come seeking your perseverance,
that we may glorify you in all places.
Show us how to live, that our lives shine with your glory,
and those who encounter us may know you
and that you are at work in your world. Amen.*

A prayer for others

*We bring before you, O God, our concerns for our world:
where there is violence, we pray for peace;
where there is sickness we pray for health;
where there is despair we pray for hope.
We pray that you would be active in health care:
in the work of doctors and dentists,
psychiatrists and psychologists,
nurses and administrators,
pharmacists and researchers.
Guide our activity in the church:
may we find ways to grow; may we always honour you;
may we serve our communities.
Lord, hear us, heal us and shine through our lives.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

A personal prayer

Lord, may your glory be seen in what I do and who I am. Amen.

Live your faith

In any situation you find yourself in this week, look for an opportunity to do something that will glorify or lift up God/Jesus.