

12-07-2020 - Worship At Home

Kick Sunday

Opening Prayer

Song: Bigger Than Big

(CCLI Song # 5185520)

God You made our big blue sky
You made oceans deep and wide
God You made the trees so tall
And Your love is bigger than it all

***God You're bigger than big
Stronger than strong
Yeah, You're mightier than mighty
And louder than this song
Your love for me stretches farther than far
And I can't imagine just how big You are
Just how big You are***

Confession

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.
On our city: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division,
jealousy and bitterness.
On us: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.
Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Interview

Dan Wells

Reading

Psalm 121:1-8

Reflection

My name is Joe Lowther, I am CEO of KICK, which was founded at this church, Holy Trinity Richmond 17 years ago. Our mission is to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. We now work with 12,292 young people a week, in 28 boroughs delivering PE, Street Dance, Mentoring and Chaplaincy in 70 schools and working with 27 church-based KICK Academies. We are grateful for being a part of the Holy Trinity family throughout this time and especially now.

Today, I want to share with you a testimony of God's grace. I want you to know that God wants to walk with you and He wants you to walk with Him.

1. GOD WALKS WITH YOU

When all of this blew up around the Coronavirus in March, I was reading this Psalm. I knew the LORD gave it to me.

Psalm 121:1-8

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains -
 where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip -
 he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord watches over you -
 the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm -
 he will watch over your life;
- 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
 both now and forevermore.

So, Boris Johnson announced that all the Schools were closing. We expected this. We thought it was going to be for two weeks of term, plus the Easter holiday but he said "for the foreseeable future". We thought, 'oh no'. We have 3.5 months reserves but not 6 months. Maybe this is the end? This was announced on the Wednesday night and it sank in for us on the Thursday. We decided to go for broke and speak with all 70 Headteachers on the Friday. I have never been more nervous. But I kept running Psalm 121:1-2 through my head and my heart that night and into the Friday morning. "I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." We rang 70 Headteachers as a last hope. We levelled with the Headteachers that although they were getting, we were not. We said "Please stand by us". We were blown away by the feedback from Headteachers saying how much they loved KICK and wanted to stand by us. As the LORD would have it, that Friday morning at midnight – the Government had informed schools they had to set up Key Worker Schools. Instead of dropping KICK, these

Headteachers were delighted we'd rung, so that we could run their Key Worker provision for them.

During this entire crisis we have miraculously continued to work in 58 of our 71 schools; whilst all the schools were supposed to have been shut. We have delivered Key Worker School education – through sport, dance and chaplaincy on site to Key Worker children to enable their parents to go out and save lives. Now that Schools are starting phased reopening we are continuing to work in these environments. We have been able to deliver Remote Mentoring - offering sessions online to engage those most at risk dealing with issues such as - Dealing with anxiety; Maintaining positive thinking; Contributing an active part in home life; Keeping good routine and structure; and Providing purpose and stimulation throughout the day.

We lifted our eyes up to the mountains and our help came from the LORD. He was not asleep or slumbering but was there for us, watching over and keeping us from harm.

2. GOD WANTS YOU TO WALK WITH HIM

During April I was struck by Isaiah 33:2, 5-6.

Isaiah 33:2, 5-6

2 Lord, be gracious to us;
we long for you.

Be our strength every morning,
our salvation in time of distress.

5 The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high;
he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness.

6 He will be the sure foundation for your times,
a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;
the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.

In this time, it has felt like a rollercoaster. There have been so many up's and downs. Some schools have dropped us, we have had to put some staff on Furlough, one of our coaches younger brother died of COVID-19 aged just 25, hearing of the pressures of our young people, and then the tragic news that a year 12 learner from Christ's had committed suicide. Tom Rutter, our founding coach and now a KICK Chaplain, dealt so well with this deeply terrible situation - speaking tenderly to friends, family and staff at the school. It has been hard. Isaiah 33 has been very helpful. The LORD can strengthen us every morning to do things we can't cope with. He is a sure foundation for us to stand on it uncertain times. We can engage the rich store of salvation, of wisdom and of knowledge; when we fear the LORD. We must remember that the key to this treasure is to revere the LORD. It means walking in step with Him, honouring Him, talking with Him. He wants to give us not cheap but rich stores of salvation in our circumstances; wisdom to navigate them; and knowledge as to how to act in hard times. I don't know if God caused COVID-19 or if, as in Job, He allowed it to happen? But what I do know is that He is not asleep, He is wide awake. He is in charge and on the throne. He is an ever-present help in times of trouble. In our struggles during this time – he wants to give you salvation, wisdom and knowledge. He has not yet taken away Coronavirus, things may get harder before they get better but what I believe is that He wants

us to trust Him through this. This is an opportunity to reach out to Him in faith. God wants you to walk with Him.

3. WALK UPRIGHTLY AND HE'LL CARRY YOU WHEN YOU CAN'T WALK ANYMORE

Finally, I wanted to share with you Psalm 50:14-15, which God gave me in June.

Psalm 50:14-15

14 “Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfil your vows to the Most High,
15 and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honour me.”

In these tough times. We can encounter all kinds of challenges. Normally I can sort through problems but what God is showing me, is there are definitely a number of things I can't solve. It can feel out of control and honestly, I don't like it. One such problem I faced I didn't know what to do. I considered a ton of ways to respond but realised none of them were going to work. I needed to take it to the LORD and ask Him to deliver me. I didn't sleep well that night as the anxiety hit me. My wife, Laura, came to my aid and said read the Bible, pray and ask God to speak to you. So, I did and He gave me Psalm 50:14-15. We need to remember what God has done for us and thank Him v14. List out the things God has done for each of us, thanking Him. It honours the LORD and it raises our faith levels in God's ability to act. Then we need to walk uprightly and fulfil our vows to God. Then v15, we can call on Him and in our day of trouble, the LORD can deliver us. In this particular trial, the LORD turned things full circle and I was so grateful to Him for his provision. Now it's time for me to honour Him and give him the glory today with you all.

CONCLUSION

So please in these times walk with the LORD. Walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Life is marathon, walk don't sprint. Walk with Him – lifting your eyes up and knowing where you help comes from (Psalm 121); remembering He's wide awake and has a rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge ready to strengthen you each morning (Isaiah 33); and that He is your deliverer, so remember what He has done for you, walk uprightly and wait on Him to lead you in this day of trouble (Psalm 50).

Please continue to pray for us at KICK:

1. New Opportunities: through the Key Worker provision we have had so many new opportunities to be salt and light in these circumstances. Pray for our coaches to be wise and brave to share.
2. Our young people: Lockdown has sadly seen domestic violence rise and we want to be able to work with our young people as soon as possible. We are delivering Remote Mentoring and Chaplaincy but we long to be face/face once again soon.
3. Sustainability: pray for the Health & Safety of our wonderful coaches as they travel to and from work. With so much change through lockdown ahead of September please pray for wisdom for our leaders.

Song: Amazing Grace

(CCLI Song # 2762836)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Today we pray for Kick:

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- **Our young people:** Lockdown has sadly seen domestic violence rise and we want to be able to work with our young people as soon as possible. We are delivering Remote Mentoring and Chaplaincy but we long to be face/face once again soon.
- **Sustainability:** pray for the Health & Safety of our wonderful coaches as they travel to and from work. With so much change through lockdown ahead of September please pray for wisdom for our leaders.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Song: Lord, I Need You

(CCLI Song # 5925687)

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

***Lord I need You, oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You***

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

*So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay*

Blessing

God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and
worship you now and always.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.