



Week beginning June 7th

Preparing a People: To Be a Blessing

Opening Question

- What thoughts have stayed with you from Sunday's message on this theme?
- Have you ever had to step into something unknown? What happened? How did you feel? Where was God in the experience?

Getting into the text

Read Genesis 12:1-9, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

- What did God call Abram to do? What did he need to leave behind?

- What promises did God give Abram?

- What did Jesus ask Matthew to do?

- How did both Abram and Matthew respond to the call on their lives?
- Why do the Pharisees criticise Jesus for attending the dinner at Matthew's house? What does his response tell you about who he wants to bless?
- Why do you think Jesus insists on speaking to the woman who touched his cloak instead of letting her slip away unnoticed?

Applying the Bible to your life

- The people in these passages each took a step of faith in different ways. What step of faith do you sense God is inviting you to take at this time? Is there something you need to step towards or away from?
- Who are the "outsiders" or "undesirables" in your context, and how might you be a blessing to them?

Something to pray about

In Micah 6:8 we read, '**And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.**'

- Offer to God any situations where you feel you are being called to take a step of faith, asking him to give you courage and boldness.
- Pray that God will open your eyes to the opportunities to bless others in your community, especially those who feel excluded or looked down on.