

With all my heart . . .

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conferencing package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and then pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read Psalm 9v1-2, Psalm 111 v 1-5 or Psalm 138v1-2

Watch the YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/jHhIbLt3Krl>

Now spend some time reflecting on the phrase “my whole heart” by thinking about these four questions and how you can be more “wholehearted” in your prayers, praise and reflection:

What are the issues and concerns I usually pray about? What are the phrases that you tend to use? What are the particular issues or aspects of yourself that tend to be the focus of your prayers? What are the things you pray about? What do you imagine God to be like when you are praying? Don't negate these familiar narratives; spend some time with them, but also make time to ask some other questions.

What have I stopped noticing? Are there some things in your life that you've become so used to, that you've overlooked them in your prayer and worship? What aspects of God's nature and being have you perhaps forgotten? What are the struggles that you've learned to live with and perhaps stopped seeking God's help? Create the space to re-include God in those things.

What are you hiding from God? What do you consider too unimportant or personal to be of concern to God? Are there aspects of your life that you have somehow determined as “unspiritual” that you need to include in your worship and prayer? Have you created “no-go areas” in your life that you need to re-admit to God's presence, perhaps through a sense of guilt?

What else might God want to show you? If we believe that God knows us better than we know ourselves – what might God want to show you about yourself that can help you be even more “wholehearted” in your worship and devotion? Create the space to listen for God speaking into your life.

PRAYER

God of all things, help me to worship you with all of my heart. Thank you for those familiar things that assure me of your goodness and give me cause to rejoice. Help me to notice those things that I might have forgotten, that can enlarge my sense of your presence. Grant me the courage and faith in your grace, to be honest about the hidden things, so that I can more fully know your love in my life. Show me those things that I have yet to discover so that I can be shaped by your Spirit to grow more into your likeness. Renew my heart; restore my heart; cleanse my heart and equip my heart to worship you more fully. AMEN