

Rachel Bowen writes..

A few months ago, Ian asked if the evening service this Sunday could have a worship focus. As I prayed about what to do, the phrase “pursue God” kept coming to my mind. So often we think about God pursuing us – He sent his Son to seek and save us while we were lost. We remember the image of the father running with open arms to welcome back his prodigal son (Luke 15 if you don’t know it – it is well worth a read). He knows everything about us (Psalm 139) and yet He still showers us with His love.

God makes a promise: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). There is something intentional about pursuing God. We don’t just sit back and wait, but the Bible encourages us to keep on seeking. Luke 11:9 says “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” We need to be persistent in our asking, seeking and knocking. God wants us to pursue Him actively and relentlessly, just as He actively and relentlessly pursues us.

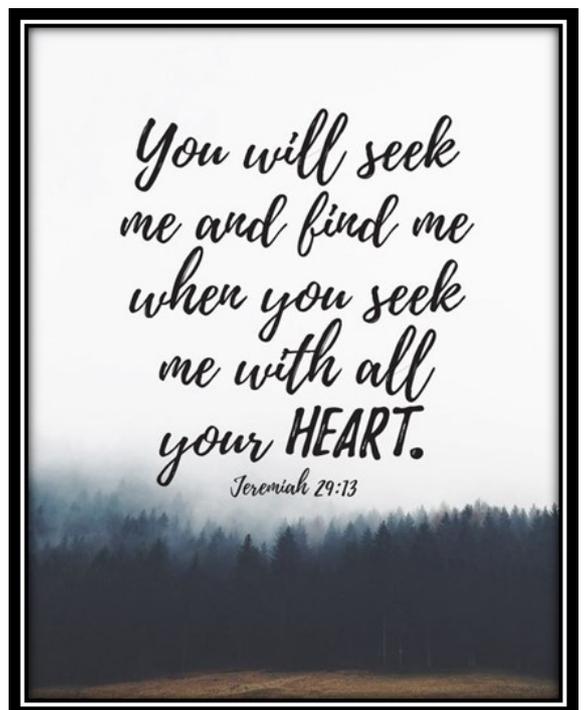
God loves us no matter what; He is always with us despite our selfishness and rebellion, He is our strength when we are finding things tough, and He wants us to be secure in who He has made us to be. He longs for us to know Him more and to actively pursue Him. We love Him because He first loved us.

As Cory Ashby puts it

*“Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up coming after me.”*

What a great example of perfect love for us to follow... Will you come on Sunday at 7pm and join us as we pursue God together?

Blessings, Rachel



Notices

Ladies Pamper 'n' chat

Saturday 13th April 10am-12noon Meeting Room 2

Who let the Blokes Out!

Saturday 13th April 10am-12noon

Men's Curry Night

April 16th 7.45pm at Shakil's in Bicester. For more details contact Colin Arter on 07717875566.

Climate Justice Workshops - Mondays 6 May, 3 June and 1 July.

Join us to talk about and plan action to reduce the effect of global warming on communities rich and poor, worldwide, first Monday of the month, 7.45pm in Meeting Room 1. See Debbie Winson for more details.

Good Friday Reflections-Stations of the Cross

A reflective, personal space to consider Jesus and his call on our lives

19th April 2-4pm & 7-9pm here at Emmanuel Church. See Carol Hill for more details.

Easter Celebration and Egg hunt

Saturday 20th April 4-6pm here at Emmanuel Church.

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. Contact the church office if you need help doing this.

ECB DIARY

SUN 7th April	10.30am	Informal Worship and APCM Jesus Anointed Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Roger Winson
	7.30pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Praise and Worship Night Leader: Rachel Bowen
TUES 9th April	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 10th April	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
Thurs 11th April	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI 12th April	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 13th April	10.00am	Ladies Pamper 'n' Chat
	10.00am	Who Let the Blokes Out!
SUN 14th April	10.30am	Palm Sunday Café Church—Jerusalem as King Leader: Helen Davies Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7.30pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Sri Lanka Update Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

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