

John 3:1-17; Romans 8:12-17. *Experiencing God as Creator-Father, Saviour-Son and Inspirer-Spirit.*

Welcome	What do you do to make the children in your family (including nieces & nephews, etc.) feel special?
Worship ideas	<i>Suggested songs: (Songs of Fellowship) 1 Abba Father; 90 Father, I can call you Father; 92 Father God, I wonder; 567 We are here to praise you; 1346 In Christ alone (NB files with c.30 more recent songs are available to borrow from the office)</i>
Word (refs.)	NB Sunday's sermon is available to download from the church website www.stbchurch.org.uk
Read John 3:1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrate on Jesus' explanation of the 'new birth' here (vv.1-8) • Why does Nicodemus not understand what Jesus is saying? What does Jesus mean by 'born of water and the Spirit' (v.8)? • In v.8, is Jesus saying that it isn't always possible to tell when someone has been 'born of the Spirit'? Why?/ why not? • How <u>can</u> we know when we have been 'born again'? – an experience? a physical sign? an action (e.g. being baptised)? trusting God's word?
Read Romans 8:12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In v.12-13, Paul tells us not to 'live according to the flesh' but to 'put to death the misdeeds of the body'? What help do we have in this? (v.13a). How do we do this in practice? • In vv.13-17, Paul talks about four aspects of being children of God as we are led by the Holy Spirit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>privilege</u> of being an 'adopted son' (v.14) – referencing the practice of a Roman citizen adopting an adult (male) slave as his heir when there were no natural-born children • The <u>intimacy</u> of being able to call God 'Abba, Father' (v.15) • The <u>experience</u> of the Spirit testifying that we are God's children (the assurance of God's love), v.16 • The <u>security</u> of our inheritance (v.17) • How does this help us be more confident in our relationship with God? • What difference should it make to you to know that you are a beloved son/ daughter of the King of Kings? <u>Does</u> it make a difference?
Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for some of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for your mission link person(s) or project • for greater confidence in our inheritance as God's adopted children/ heirs • for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours in the coming weeks (eg St Barnabas Day 10th June, Father's Day 17 June) • Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a group during June or July to which you can invite wider friends and family, etc. (eg summer barbecue, trip out, garden party, etc.)