

CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

Baby Thanksgiving - March 2014

1) What is the funniest thing you remember from your childhood?

2) Read **Numbers 18 v15-16**

Was there anything Rich said that you found particularly helpful? What was it and why?

3) a) Read **Exodus 13 v1 & 11-16**

i) What does it mean to 'redeem' the first born males?

ii) What differences are there between redeeming the animal firstborns and the human firstborns?

iii) What historical event does this passage say the redeeming is a reminder of?

iv) In what ways is this practice a useful reminder of the event?

b) Read **Luke 2 v22-24**

i) How do Joseph and Mary obey the command in Exodus 13?

ii) Why do you think Luke includes this incident in his gospel?

c) Read **Colossians 1v15-20** which is written by Paul about Jesus.

i) What do you think Paul means by calling Jesus 'the firstborn over all creation' (v15)?

ii) What do you think Paul means by calling Jesus 'the firstborn from the dead' (v18)?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read **Isaiah 43 v1-7**

- a) Who is God primarily speaking to in this passage?
- b) In verse 1 God says he has 'redeemed' the addressees: what does this mean?
- c) Where else in this passage is the concept of redemption described?
- d) What Old Testament historical event is this passage primarily referring to?
- e) To what extent was this prophecy fulfilled in this event?
- f) In what ways does this passage take on greater significance in light of Jesus?
- g) What do you think the promises in verse 2 mean? Why?
- h) What does this passage tell us about God?
- i) What does this passage tell us about ourselves?

CONNECT IN PRAYER

The **Gift Day** is on **Sunday 30th March**. Please pray about what you feel God is calling you to give.

Please pray for **Al and Jeff** as new elders in the church. Also pray for **Rich and Chris** as they continue to serve the church as part of the eldership team.

Continue to pray for the situation in **Ukraine and Crimea**. Christians there are asking us to pray for a "miracle" to stop any further descent into conflict.

CONNECT WITH CHURCH LIFE

The **Gift Day** is on **Sunday 30th March**. We are looking to raise **£30,000**. If you would like to give your money before the end of this financial year, please put it in the giving box or send it by BACS (making sure it's clearly labeled as 'Gift Day').

CHANGE OF DATE! A **Church Lunch** with **Lesotho Team Feedback** is on **Sunday 6th April**. Everyone welcome! The food will be 'bring and share' organised through your small group nearer the time.

We are having a **Baptism Service** on **13th April 2014**. If you haven't been baptised but would like to be, please speak to Rich or Al.