**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Bible Study for week beginning 1st June 2021**

**Theme ‘Connecting with God”**

I wonder how you would respond if someone asked how you ‘connected with God’. Some would talk about the work of the Holy Spirit in worship, or their daily quiet time of bible reading and prayer, others about a walk in the countryside or a refreshing spa day. All these things are deeply personal, and often done in solitude; giving space and time for God to speak without worldly distractions.

However we do it, the need for connectivity with God is part of being human. We want to know that our lives matter, that we are living lives that are significant; that we love and are loved. In order to do this we try to connect with the God of the Universe; that he will reassure us, guide us, encourage and challenge us But more than that, like an electric lamp, until we are plugged in we lack power to shine.

**Open in Prayer**

**Read; Matthew 6 vs 5-14**

1/ How do you connect with God in your daily life? How does it make you feel?

2/ Why is prayer so hard? Why don’t we do it more?

3/ Why is it important to pray in private? vs 5-7

4/ They say that the most important parts of a book are its beginning and its end. What do you notice about the beginning and end of the Lords Prayer?

5/ Why are we instructed in vs 9-10 and 13b to talk about God in our prayers, to praise and adore him?

6/ Vs 11,12 and 13a are requests to God. What do you notice about them?

7/ V 14 is about not only being reconciled to God but also to others.

How easy do you find it to pray for others if you don’t get on with them? Why should we forgive others when we might feel no need to do so?

8/ Discipline is a difficult concept. We have bad memories from being disciplined at school. However, the Christian life requires us to be disciplined in our prayer life, in our connectivity to God.

Discuss.

9/ When we are connected with God, some of his nature rubs off on us. When we are in his presence we feel his outpouring of grace, we know we are special and have been truly forgiven. How can we encourage others to our wonderful God that he might transform their lives and bring life, hope and peace?

**Finish in prayer.**