

Lent 2026, from the new Archbishop of Canterbury:

“Lent is often characterised as a time for giving things up, for fasting and denying ourselves as Jesus did for 40 days in the desert. But the purpose of this can be lost all too easily. Fasting is not self-denial for its own sake, but about drawing closer to God and to our neighbour, setting aside the things that might be getting in the way. But this can be achieved just as effectively by taking up **new, life-giving habits**. And that's what this course is all about, teaching us how we can **cultivate the habits and practices** that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too.”



ALL FOR JESUS – week 1 - Consecration.

From the hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal written on 4th Feb 1874:

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

SONGS OF WORSHIP – Songs like *You laid aside your majesty* (Noel Richards) or *I will offer up my life* (Matt Redman) will fit with the theme for this week.

BIBLE PASSAGES referred to in the video:

1 Peter 2:1-10 and **Romans 12:1-2**

Optional passage **Exodus 29:1-9 and 42-46** on the Old Testament act(s) of consecration.

THEMES EXPLORED this week:

The themes of *holiness, consecration and sacrifice* are introduced. Everything changes when Jesus comes! Believers are made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus and can offer themselves for God's purposes. Peter sees the church as *chosen, holy, a priesthood of all believers, belonging to God*. They are a community with a purpose! Frances Ridley Havergal grounds the idea of consecration in the *daily offering* of praise and honour to God.

HEADLINES FROM THE VIDEO

In **1873**, Frances read a little Christian booklet by J. T. Wrenford entitled "ALL FOR JESUS". It was inspirational for her and she recorded in her diary:

With all my soul I did, there and then, accept Him - my "Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption," my Saviour and my Lord; and I did, there and then, surrender myself to Him, utterly and unreservedly. Then the blessing came. I rose from my knees rejoicing! "Jesus is mine!" I could exclaim, "and I am His."

This word **consecrated** means *set apart, made holy, dedicated, sanctified*. In the Old Testament, objects and places were consecrated. Anything involved in worship... like the tabernacle, the altar, the table and certain people like priests ... were purified and anointed and set apart. But all that changes with the coming of Jesus. Jesus offers Himself to God. He prays in John 17. *"I sanctify myself that they may be truly sanctified!"*

Steve says, *"I love the thought that the day might include unexpected opportunities, conversations, little surprises, **God moments!** Because the day has been offered to God, we take those opportunities to do or say something that honours God or speaks of Him. We share the story of how he called us out of darkness into the light. Are we expecting those moments? Could our lives flow with what Frances called **ceaseless praise.**"*

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY AND DRAW OUT THE THEME(S):

1 Peter 2:1-10 and Romans 12:1-2 (Optional passage Exodus 29:1-9 and 42-46)
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Invite people to discuss the meaning of the word 'consecration' in Scripture.

- What can we learn from the Old Testament teaching?
- How is the idea of consecration expanded or enlarged in the New Testament?

Invite people to consider the 'vision and purpose of church' we read about in 1 Peter ch 2.

- In what ways are we fulfilling God's intention as the people 'chosen by God'?
- What is the purpose for which we have been set apart and made holy?

Invite people to reflect on the words of the hymn and/or Romans 12:1-2. Consider using the Message translation of This passage.

- What 'stirs' in you (encouragement or challenge) when you read this?
- Is Jesus inviting you to approach a typical day, or your life, in a new way?

MAKE IT PERSONAL - WRITE YOUR OWN HYMN, POEM OR PRAYER (OPTIONAL)

Invite each person to consider the theme, what they've learned and what they are taking away. Encourage them to express this in *their own words* by writing their own "verse 1". It could be just a few thoughts, some key words, a prayer, a descriptive paragraph, a rhyming verse! They will be invited to add to this over the next 5 weeks and will thus have their own 'hymn of consecration'.

GROWING IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP

Drawing on the gospels and some key discipleship books, we have discerned a balanced, rounded framework for discipleship today which encompasses the life-giving habits for disciples walking in the way of Jesus today. It can be expressed in simple pictures:

heart, head, hands and feet

When Jesus invited people to **follow him**, they literally *walked alongside him* from place to place. Gospels like Mark emphasise what took place *on the way or along the road*. We are choosing the word 'pathway' to provide a framework or pattern for following Jesus *today*. In the coming year, we will be developing this framework with discipleship pathways such as the *Encounter Pathway*.

Jesus also used several word pictures for discipleship: *a cross to be taken up, an easy yoke, a narrow path*. None describe a life of ease or comfort! They express the need for a 'commitment' and present the challenge of 'counting the cost'. In **ALL FOR JESUS**, we are inviting people to use the season of Lent to 'take stock' of their commitment to following Jesus as a 21st century disciple.

Each week, we'll have some 'rounding off' discipleship questions to help us to reflect on what we're taking away by way of *learning and encouragement...* and *challenge!* The following relates to this week's study. It would be helpful to give group members a copy of this page 😊

Area of our discipleship	In words...	Key thought explored in this study	A question to consider
	Loving Jesus	A relationship with Jesus of love and joy, not just duty and obligation.	What has been stirring within as we've listened and talked?
	Learning from Jesus	Jesus offers His life to the Father.	Is there something new I've learned or discovered about myself or about God?
	Imitating Jesus	Each day is an opportunity to offer my life to God.	In what ways could I be a blessing to others in a practical way?
	Sharing Jesus	There may be God moments when I can speak about my faith.	Am I ready for the surprising God moments in my day?