



A   
Scottish United Reformed Church

**Writings**

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# Exploring Our Faith God Talk

## *Notes for Facilitators*

### **The aims of these sessions...**

We hope the sessions help people in our congregations feel more confident in talking about their faith. Generally, we are better at talking about the weather or catching up on family news than we are in talking about the Lord who sits at his table.

We hope that, in easy manageable steps, we feel more comfortable talking with people who go to church with about our faith in the hope that will give us a bit of confidence to chat to those we know and love but who don't come to church about their faith.

### **The aims of these sessions...**

The sessions build on each other and help groups become comfortable speaking about God. Further sessions will be held on evangelism and faith basics.

### **As the facilitator, your role is to...**

~~As a facilitator, your role is to gently ask questions, not talk too much about your own ideas but encourage people to share theirs.~~ You need to be aware of people who enrol but don't ask the questions. Eg: "Mary, what do you think about that?" or be prepared to ask "what do you think about that?" or "how do you think about that?"

You also have a role in being time keeper – sometimes you may want to let discussion run on but generally try and keep an eye on the clock so that the material is given justice.

### **Commitment...**

In order to, build up trust we want to commit to coming to all four sessions and that if people miss the first you ask them to wait until the course is offered again rather than come to the second.

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think about their feelings and the Wee Challenge is an encouragement to pray for someone who needs God in their life. The Wee Challenge could also be a discussion starter if you need to fill some time – otherwise it's something to reflect on at home.

### **Session 2: Exploring Spirituality**

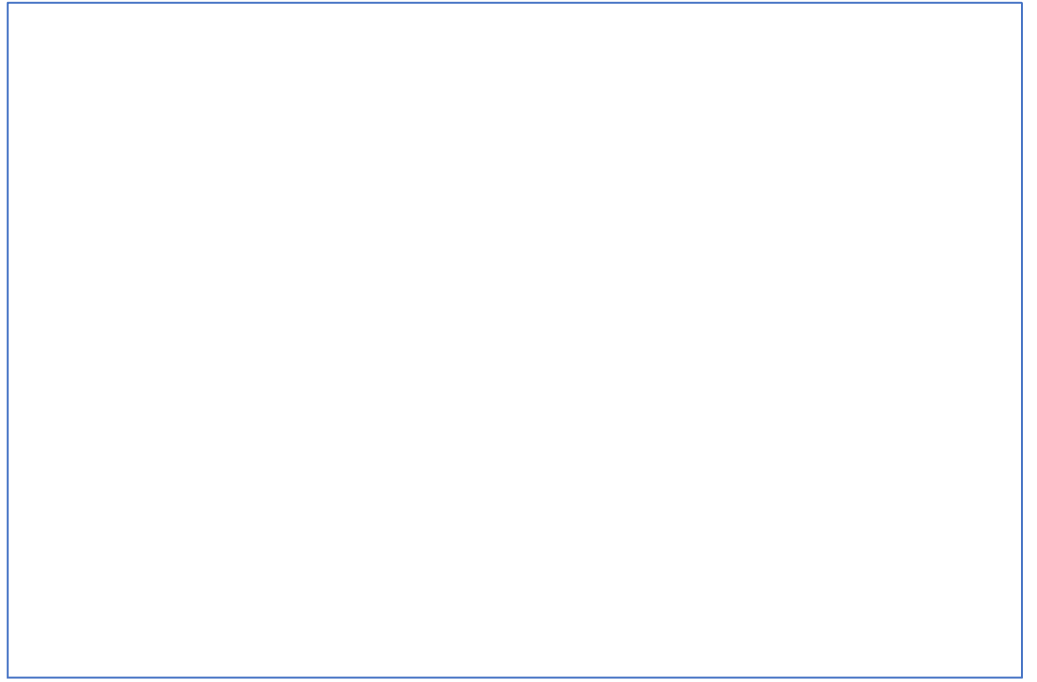
If you are doing these sessions with a person they identified in the Wee Challenge section last week. You need to provide some objects for reflection. We suggest: a candle, picture of the earth from space, picture of a mountain or natural scenery, picture of a crowd of diverse people, and a picture of Jesus – if you have one – eg [this one](#)



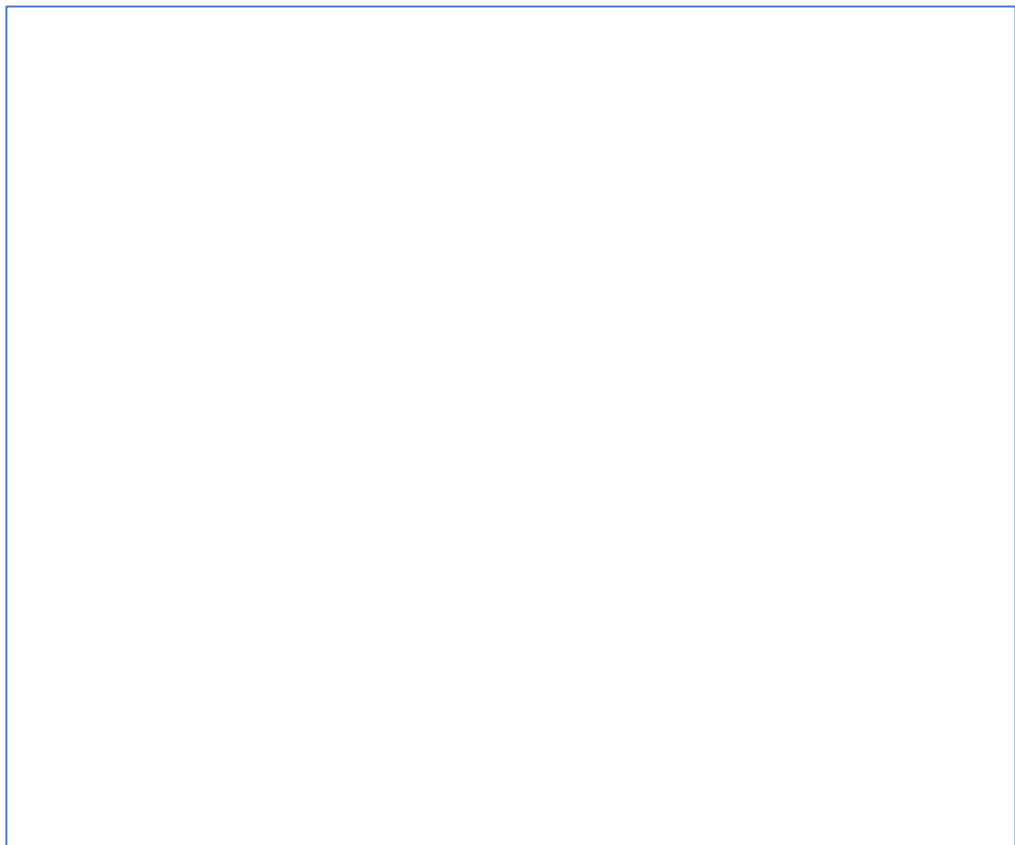








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## Thought for the Day

### ~~Going Deeper~~

- On the sheet provided, consider the two parallel lines running across the page. These are timelines running from your birth until now.
- On the top line, write down in your life that you have experienced as “highs” and “lows”. **You will not be expected to share the details of these events with others in the group.**
- On the lower line write down how you felt (about) God at those times – for example, God as close or distant, absent or irrelevant, uncaring or loving.
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## ***Discussion Starters***

- Look at the pictures of Jesus. Which ones do you like or dislike? Why?
- If God came in here today how do you think he'd feel ~~about~~?
- Why do you think God would feel like that?

## ***Reading***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ~~All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life.~~

## Thought for the Day



The passage from St John's Gospel is often read at Christmas – it [REDACTED] – in Jesus, God became one of us. We've been thinking about how God feels about us – we know how God feels about us because God loved a man more than He has ever loved one with us. God's ultimate sacrifice was becoming human, retaining His glory and tragedy, [REDACTED] to an unjust trial, execution and cruel death for us. God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead and exalting him as Lord of all. God delights in us – and in all of His creation.

God delights in us – always does – His delight in us is unchanging balanced by his views of our behaviour, his delight should change us rather than our sins changing God.



## Going Deeper

- How does our experience of God's love encourage us to change?
- Do [REDACTED] not?

## [REDACTED]

We have thought a little about God's delight in us and a bit about happiness. Think a little about the difference between happiness and joy – how do each relate to us and to God? how do we think God feels about us?

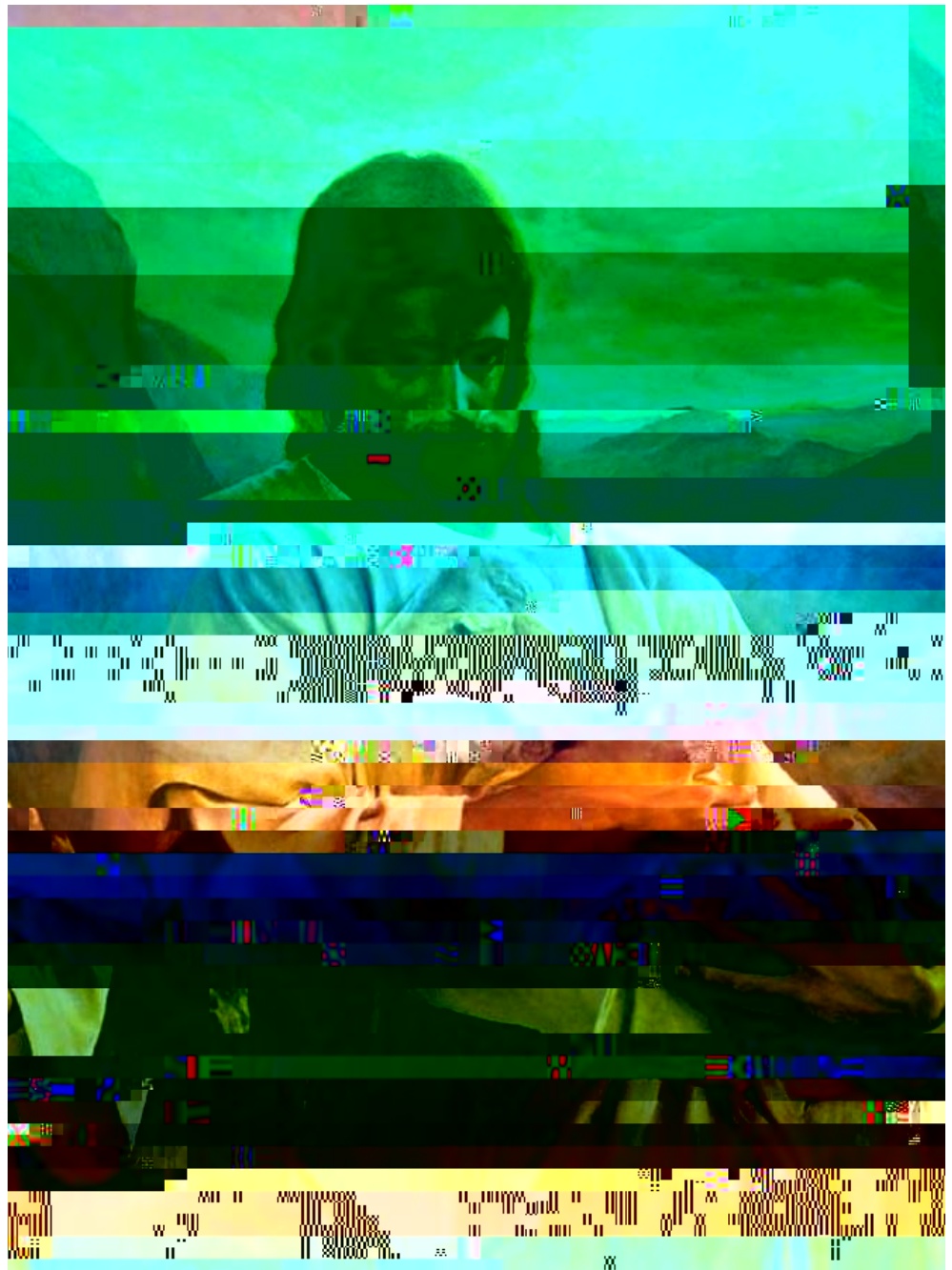




Lino Pontebon  
The Angry Christ



Sieger Köder  
The Washing of the Feet



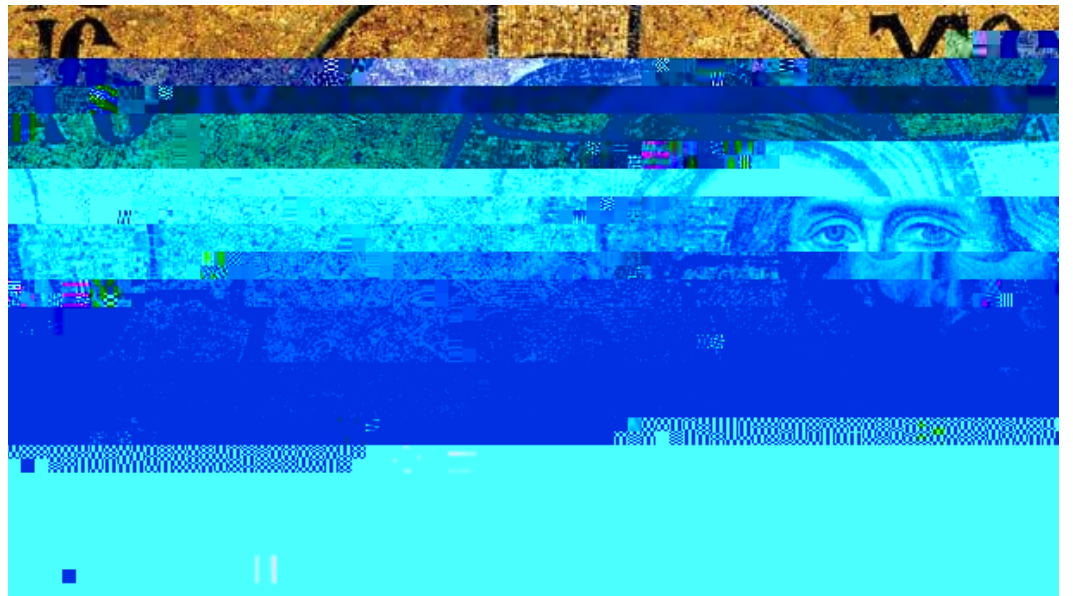
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[REDACTED]

VINCENT BARZONI



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