**NMBC Small groups** – week beginning 31st January 2021

Deuteronomy 31 “Passing on the baton”

Some study suggestions to choose from.

**1 Review the life of Moses**

Deuteronomy 34:10 “No prophet has risen like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face”.

Two Sundays ago, Simon led us in considering the ‘fault’ of Moses in his lack of trust in the Lord when faced with the Israelites’ rebellion over a lack of water, which eventually prevented him from entering the land God had given his people.

But now see what is written in the full mini obituary at the end of Deuteronomy 34:10-12!

Think back together through the whole preaching series. Suggest evidence for this tribute to the strengths, experience, and character of Moses.

Remind yourselves of Moses’ shrinking reluctance in Exodus 3:11 & 4:10-13.

What do you think shaped his growth that enabled these “awesome deeds”?

**2 Learn from Moses’s commissioning of Joshua with encouragement.**

Read Deuteronomy 31:6-8.

Pick out the key elements in the encouragement and instructions Moses gave Joshua.

You can also look at the expanded words of the Lord’s commissioning in Joshua 1:7-9.

We all need encouragement!

How does God give encouragement? What are the key elements in this?

There is a ministry of encouragement between members of Christ’s body, the Church.

Suggest ways in which encouragement is needed, and given, in a Christian fellowship, especially in all the difficulties of the pandemic.

**3 Review the place of God’s Word in our lives.**

Look at two places where the regular input of God’s Word is encouraged by Moses:

Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20: Instructions to the King

Read Deuteronomy 31:9-13: Instructions to all the people.

Share a realistic analysis of how much the Bible is given its place in our church, our individual lives, in our churches, & in our society & national life.

Encourage each other to make aims, and actual ideas, for plans to read the Word this year.

**4 Be honest about the dangers of being “stiff-necked”!**

Read Deuteronomy 31:15-18 and 27-29 with its serious predictions.

Read Jeremiah 7:21-26 - an example of how this attitude continued through their history.

Acts 7:51-53 – A reminder of the tragic climax of this attitude in their rejection of Jesus.

This human tendency could enable us to have discussion on so many fronts!

Perhaps you could choose one of these areas below to share your observations about those parts of human behaviour & attitudes which prevent or distort God’s intentions for human life:

**Church Life**: What makes a church member stiff-necked towards the Word, or towards others?

**Church Leaders**: What would make a church leader stiff-necked in organising church life?

**Mission**: What would make a person without faith in New Malden stiff-necked towards God?

**Pray…**

Especially for teachers, families, children & students in the great demands of so much education being online, & in the pressures on home life.

Use the February Prayer Diary to give support to the many Key Workers in our church families.

Pray for the endurance, emotional strength & health of the whole Hospital community, particularly at Kingston & St George’s.