

Scripture: ‘...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of crafts.’ (Exodus 31:3-5)

Application: Consider spending time this week worshipping God in a creative way. Perhaps you might meditate over a favourite piece of scripture and use it to draw a picture or make something using crafts in response. Or listen to a favourite worship song as a prayer activity or write your own psalm. If you don’t consider yourself creative, then ask God to fill you with the ‘Spirit of God’ as the words from Exodus suggest, and whatever you do, use it to praise and glorify God.

Prayer:

Creator God, thank you for the gift of creativity, for the beauty of the many expressions of art and creativity in the world and the knowledge and skill of all involved in the creative arts. Thank you that those gifts bring joy, recreation, practical application, understanding and enrichment to our lives. Thank you that your majesty and goodness can be found in both natural and God-inspired creation. Amen.

Faith at Work – The Creative Arts

Professions to pray for this week: Mission workers, charities, artists and artisans, craftspeople, sculptors, jewellers, musicians, dancers, choreographers, photographers, fashion designers, journalists, writers, illustrators, actors, those working in media, theatre, TV, literature, creative and performing arts.

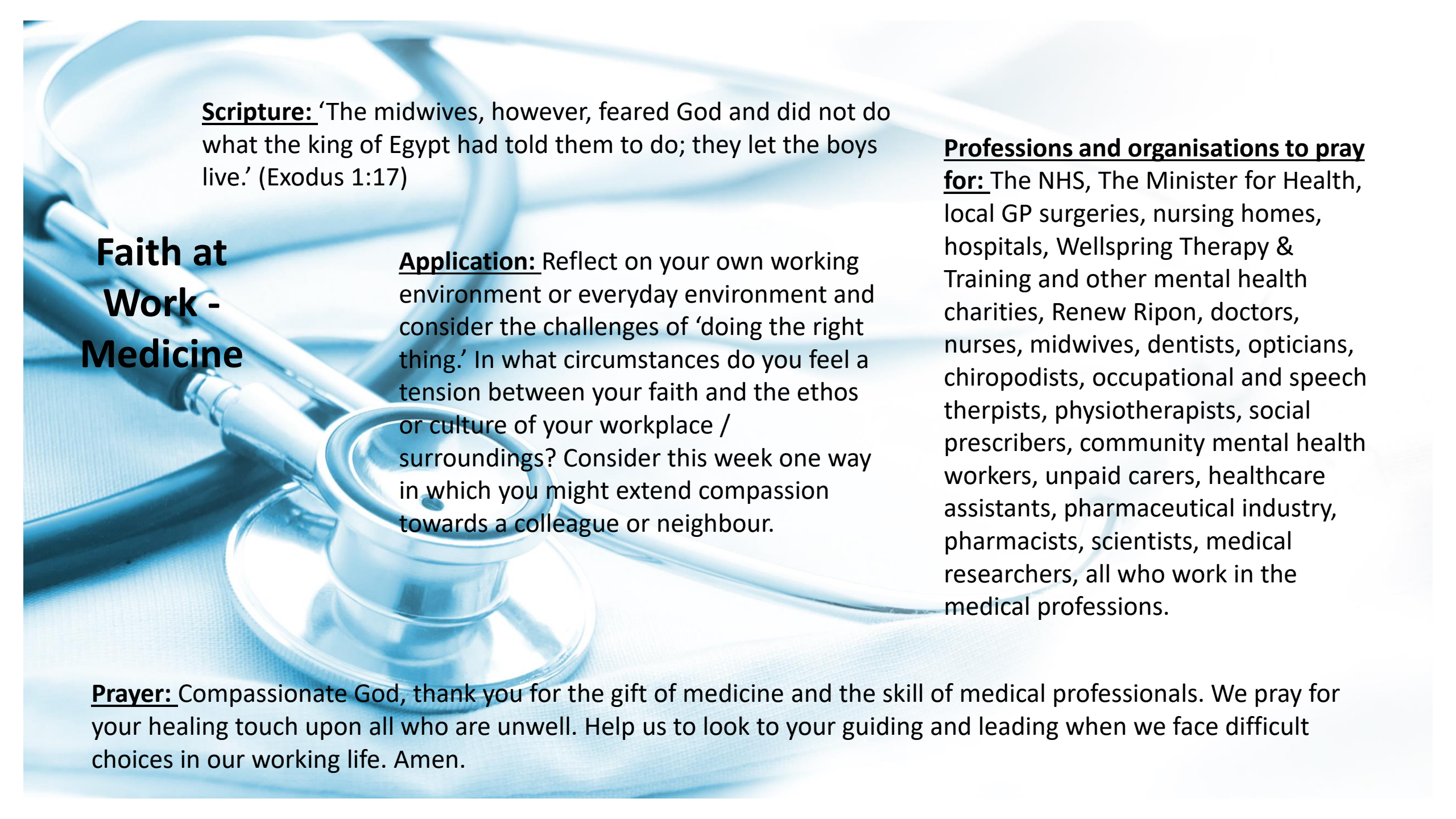
Application: Reflect on the people throughout your life, within and outside of your family, who have encouraged you in your faith. Give thanks for them. How might you be an encourager of someone of a different generation to you? If you live within a family setting, what might you do as a family to share and grow in faith together? Set aside a time each day to pray together, write a Bible verse on your home notice board each week, say grace together before your evening meal.

Scripture: 'When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And then child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on him.' (Luke 2:39-40)

Prayer: Father God, we thank you for those people both within and outside of our homes and families who have encouraged us in our faith journey. Thank you for our church family, for the different generations, and for all that we learn from one another. We pray for those who have no family or who are separated from their families, for all who experience difficult relationships with their families. May they know you as a loving Father. Help us to make your love for us central to our individual and home life. Help us to nurture the faith of one another. Amen.

Faith at Work – Home & Family

Professions and people to pray for this week: ourselves, our families and friends, our church family, church leaders, working parents, stay-at-home parents, grandparents, retired people, people who live alone, people estranged or separated from loved ones, teachers, pre-school teachers, social workers, youth leaders and youth workers (paid and voluntary), family counsellors, all working in the education sector.



Scripture: 'The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.' (Exodus 1:17)

Faith at Work - Medicine

Application: Reflect on your own working environment or everyday environment and consider the challenges of 'doing the right thing.' In what circumstances do you feel a tension between your faith and the ethos or culture of your workplace / surroundings? Consider this week one way in which you might extend compassion towards a colleague or neighbour.

Professions and organisations to pray for: The NHS, The Minister for Health, local GP surgeries, nursing homes, hospitals, Wellspring Therapy & Training and other mental health charities, Renew Ripon, doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, occupational and speech therapists, physiotherapists, social prescribers, community mental health workers, unpaid carers, healthcare assistants, pharmaceutical industry, pharmacists, scientists, medical researchers, all who work in the medical professions.

Prayer: Compassionate God, thank you for the gift of medicine and the skill of medical professionals. We pray for your healing touch upon all who are unwell. Help us to look to your guiding and leading when we face difficult choices in our working life. Amen.

Scripture: 'One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.' (Acts 16:14)

Faith at Work – Business & Commerce

Prayer: Merciful God, we pray for business leaders, policymakers and all in positions of authority and power. Thank you for their gifts and skills which bring about technological, financial and commercial advancements in many sectors and areas across the world. Help all who work in business and commerce to make wise and ethical decisions which meet the needs of all your people, and which are motivated by your idea of justice and mercy. Amen.

Professions and organisations to pray for this week: governments and business leaders around the world, local councils, business owners (small & large), lawyers, accountants, auditors, engineers, manufacturers, those working in financial services, consultants, sales & marketing personnel, advertising executives, HR and recruitment personnel.

Application: Consider what your Christian witness in the workplace looks like. Do your colleagues know you are a Christian? Lydia was described by those around her as 'a worshipper of God.' How would your colleagues describe you and what are the ways that you could point others to Jesus? What prevents you from doing this?

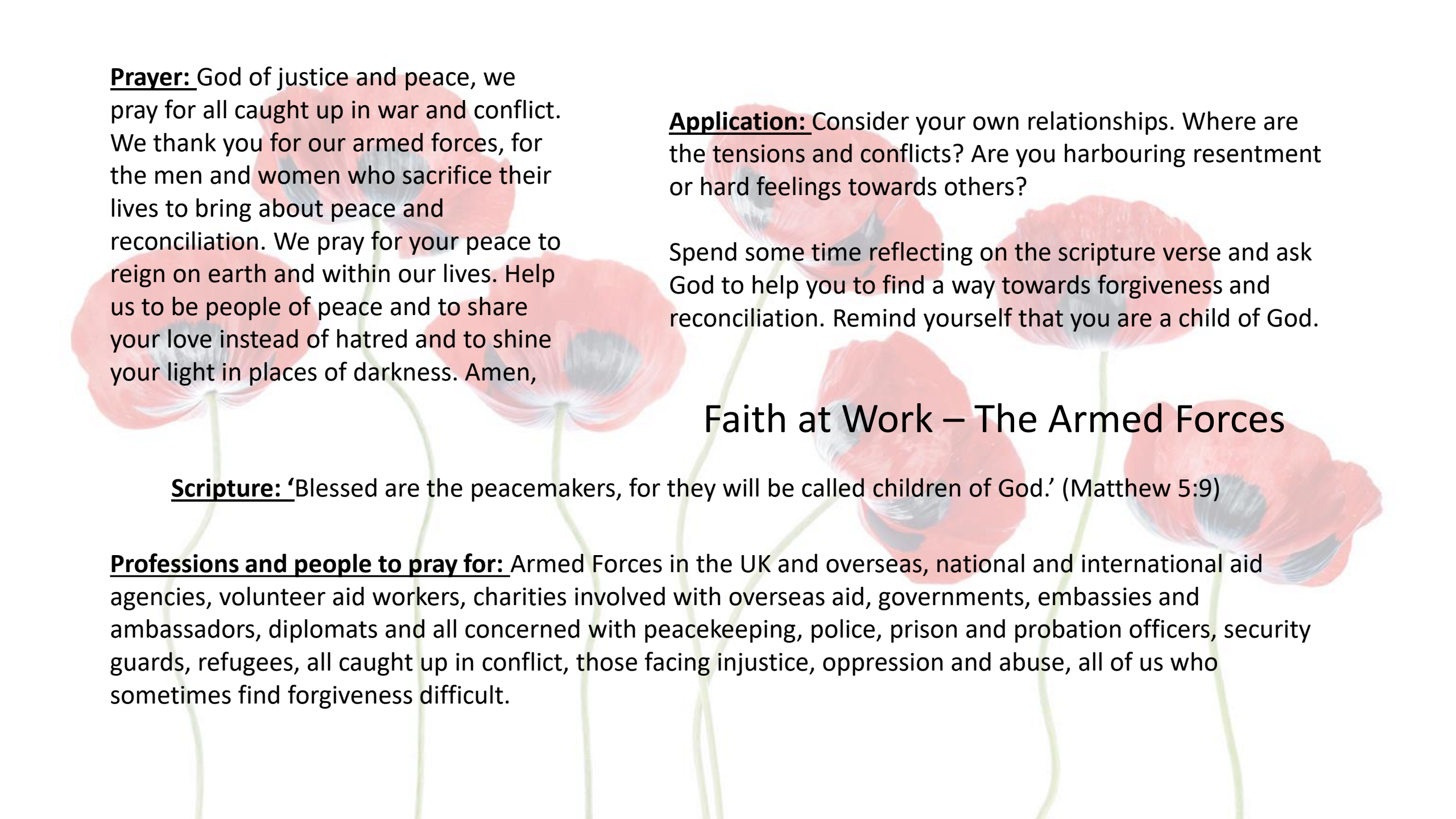
Faith at Work – Food / Retail & Hospitality Industry

Scripture: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. (Psalm 34:8)

Application: Reflect on a time when Jesus eats with others in the Bible. What does his example teach us about what Christian hospitality looks like? Consider whether you could invite someone to dinner or share a meal with someone this week.

Prayer: God of provision, we thank you for the goodness of your provision, for the gift of food and the company of others with whom we can enjoy it. Thank you that in the breaking of bread we are filled by the power of your Spirit and reminded of your great sacrifice for our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord, and your love for each of us. We pray for the times when we are careless and ungrateful and for all those who are hungry or without. Help us to love them with the same spirit of generosity as you. Amen.

Professions and groups to pray for: farmers, those in the fishing industry, agricultural workers, vets, food manufacturers, restaurant owners, restaurant staff, fast-food outlets, delivery drivers, chefs, butchers, bakers, grocers, market traders, milk merchants, retailers, nutritionists, hoteliers, all who work in the food and retail industry, those who cook for their families and invite friends and families for meals, Breakfast Club, Thursday lunches, foodbanks, hostels.



Prayer: God of justice and peace, we pray for all caught up in war and conflict. We thank you for our armed forces, for the men and women who sacrifice their lives to bring about peace and reconciliation. We pray for your peace to reign on earth and within our lives. Help us to be people of peace and to share your love instead of hatred and to shine your light in places of darkness. Amen,

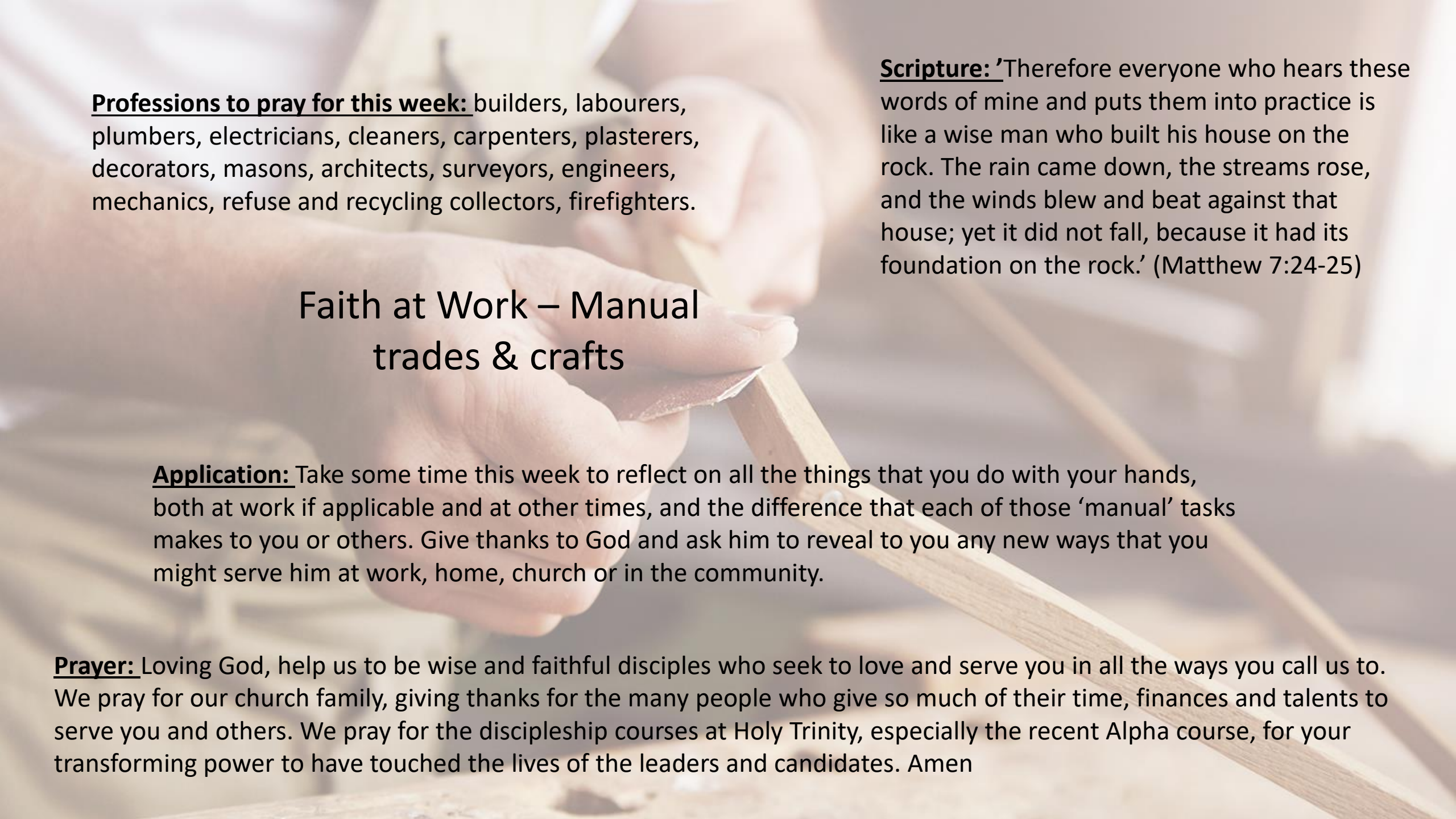
Application: Consider your own relationships. Where are the tensions and conflicts? Are you harbouring resentment or hard feelings towards others?

Spend some time reflecting on the scripture verse and ask God to help you to find a way towards forgiveness and reconciliation. Remind yourself that you are a child of God.

Faith at Work – The Armed Forces

Scripture: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’ (Matthew 5:9)

Professions and people to pray for: Armed Forces in the UK and overseas, national and international aid agencies, volunteer aid workers, charities involved with overseas aid, governments, embassies and ambassadors, diplomats and all concerned with peacekeeping, police, prison and probation officers, security guards, refugees, all caught up in conflict, those facing injustice, oppression and abuse, all of us who sometimes find forgiveness difficult.



Professions to pray for this week: builders, labourers, plumbers, electricians, cleaners, carpenters, plasterers, decorators, masons, architects, surveyors, engineers, mechanics, refuse and recycling collectors, firefighters.

Faith at Work – Manual trades & crafts

Application: Take some time this week to reflect on all the things that you do with your hands, both at work if applicable and at other times, and the difference that each of those ‘manual’ tasks makes to you or others. Give thanks to God and ask him to reveal to you any new ways that you might serve him at work, home, church or in the community.

Prayer: Loving God, help us to be wise and faithful disciples who seek to love and serve you in all the ways you call us to. We pray for our church family, giving thanks for the many people who give so much of their time, finances and talents to serve you and others. We pray for the discipleship courses at Holy Trinity, especially the recent Alpha course, for your transforming power to have touched the lives of the leaders and candidates. Amen

Scripture: ‘Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.’ (Matthew 7:24-25)

Faith at Work – Work, Rest & Play

Scripture: ‘By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.’ (Genesis 2:2-3)

People to pray for this week:

all who are weary in body, mind or spirit, self-employed for whom time off is difficult, unpaid carers and homemakers working 7 days a week, those who want to work but can't (illness, disability, circumstance, opportunity), those working many jobs to pay the bills, all who find resting hard, clergy, lay ministers, church leaders.

Application: Take time to stop and rest. Do something you love. Do something new. Be intentional. Invite God to be present in the moment with you. Say sorry. Ask for rest and restoration. Give thanks.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Prayer: Father God, may the whole of my life be surrendered to you. May all that I do and say be in praise and glory of you. May every moment of my life, whether at work, rest or play, shape and transform me to be ever Christ-like and point others to the saving and life-giving grace of Jesus. Amen.