

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

These notes were originally prepared for a church setting, offering topics for reflection and/or discussion. Images not included here may spark similar discussions.



“Word alive and active ... ?” A responsive version of the Nature Faith and Order of the URC describes the Bible in these terms. How far is Holy Scripture alive for us, rather than being a historic story book, and an active part of our daily journey of faith?

Discussion might consider those things that are actively used - tourist guides, maps, recipe books. How do biographies, poems, history etc. influence us in

the present day?



With whom am I in harmony?

Reflection on human relationships will identify ‘good’ or ‘bad’. There are then those that are creative, like musical notes making harmony. Where do we find our most harmonious and fruitful relationships? Can we include Jesus in this? If not, why?

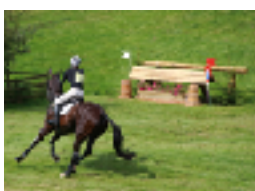


Who shares my dance?

Close to the image of musical harmony is that of the dance. Experience may well be of dancing alone, doing it badly because one has never learned how to do it properly, various partners who may have been leaders or followers. There might be conversation about the style of dance-music that is preferred - waltz, jive, samba etc. Different dances express different relationships (watch some episodes of Strictly Come Dancing).

How does this relate to the spiritual life? Discuss the nature of spiritual relationships - partnerships, teacher/disciple, conflicting ... etc.

Whose tune gives us the rhythm and tone and what is our relationship to them?



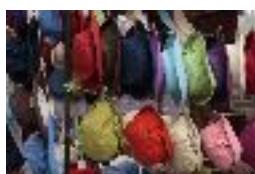
How do I approach obstacles in life?

This image is about a ‘team approach’ between horse and rider. One imagines that there is some experience involved, some assessment of the obstacle and the likely best approach. Ultimately the rider has to put her trust in her horse. Discuss how this relates to life’s obstacles, our experience and our faith.



In whose hand do I put mine?

Trust/faith are things we learn from ‘moment one’ in life - in both positive and negative ways. How does this relate to our relationship with God? How do we cope with the negative experiences? At what point do we begin to put greater trust in self rather than a parent and where does self-reliance fit into our faithful relationship with God?



Which identity today?

We all have a number of different identities which we might display in different situations. Some we use very deliberately, while deep down the ‘real me’ shapes most of them in some way. To what extent do we bear the identity of Jesus? Is this natural or deliberate?