

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS – PART 6: Pray for the Harvest

Bible reading: Matthew 9:35–38; Matthew 28:18–20

1. Opening question

Who first helped you discover something about Jesus, and what made their influence significant?

2. Seeing people as Jesus sees them

Read Matthew 9:35–36.

1. What do you think Jesus saw when he looked at the crowds? What does it mean that they were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”?
2. How might people’s anxiety, frustration or uncertainty today point to deeper spiritual needs? How can we respond with compassion rather than judgement?

3. Praying for the harvest

Read Matthew 9:37–38.

3. Jesus tells his disciples to pray for workers in the harvest. Why do you think prayer comes first? What might stop us recognising that people around us are ready to hear about Jesus?
4. What would it look like for our small group to pray more intentionally for people who don’t yet know Jesus?

4. Being part of the answer

Read Matthew 28:18–20.

5. The talk says, “Go and tell – be witnesses, not experts.” How does this encourage you? What opportunities might you have to share your faith naturally?
6. How do the different activities and people in our church—including those working behind the scenes—contribute to making disciples? What part might God be calling you to play?

5. Our response

John Sutcliff’s call to prayer reminds us to depend on the Holy Spirit, work together across Christian differences, focus on mission and trust God’s promises.

Discuss: Which of these four priorities most challenges or encourages you at the moment?

Prayer

- **For compassion:** Help us see people as Jesus sees them.
- **For the harvest:** Open hearts to the good news and send out more workers.
- **For ourselves:** Fill us with your Holy Spirit and show us how to play our part.
- **For our church:** Help Hill Cliffe Baptist Church make disciples, grow together and share God’s love.

A challenge for this week: Choose one person who doesn't yet know Jesus. Pray for them each day, look for an opportunity to show God's love, and be ready to share something of your faith.

"The grand object in prayer is to be, that the **Holy Spirit may be poured down** on our ministers and churches, that sinners may be converted, the saints edified, the interest of religion revived, and the name of God glorified. At the same time remember, we trust you will not confine your requests to your own (churches) or denominations; let the whole interest of the Redeemer be affectionately remembered, and **the spread of the gospel** to the most distant parts of the habitable globe be the object of your most fervent requests. We shall rejoice if any other Christian societies of our own or other denomination will unite with us, and do now **invite them most cordially to join heart and hand in the attempt...** who can tell what the consequences of such an united effort in prayer may be! Let us plead with God the **many gracious promises of His word**, which relate to the future success of His gospel."

John Sutcliff 1784