

## 5.1

7 January 2018

Mark 1.4-11

### All water is now holy

In this passage we get a glimpse behind the scenes of a major shift in the world's history: we see the heavens being **ripped** open (never to close again) and the Spirit descending (to remain on earth). But it isn't clear that anyone else notices. How do you peek behind the curtains?

There is an ancient idea that when Jesus entered the water he **blessed** the water, not the other way round. All water is holy, including the water that you were baptized with. What does that mean for you? (And if you haven't been baptised yet, are you ready to take the step now? Speak to Andy!)

## 5.2

14 January 2018

John 1.43-51

### Inside out

The painting here is *Nathaniel* by Mark Cazalet. It is one of the pieces in the Methodist Modern Art Collection that is coming here on tour later this year. Nathaniel is depicted under the fig tree asleep, naked. Why do you think Cazalet did this?

Jesus seemed to know a lot about Nathaniel before Nathaniel was ever aware. Looking back, when was God working in your life before you knew it?



## 5.3

21 January 2018

Mark 1.14-20

### Jumping on a train

In this passage Jesus starts off preaching in Galilee on his own, but he soon calls some people to join him. Why do you think he did this?

*"When we are baptized, we (like the first disciples) jump on a moving train."*

*(Stanley Hauerwas)*

Does your Christian life feel like a moving train, or it is more like a train that has reached its destination?

## 5.4

28 January 2018

Mark 1.21-28

### Backlash

This is the disciples' first event with Jesus. The scribes typify an approach to religion that puts human will before the divine, leading to a lukewarm, routine, predictable faith. Jesus' raw energy astounded everyone. Why do we fall into 'scribal-Christianity' so easily?

It becomes clear that there is a spiritual dimension to the conflict - instead of a scribe answering back, a demon does (v. 24). This happens again and again in Mark's gospel. What do you think about demons? Are they an antiquated way of expressing human evil and illness, or is there an opposing evil power system, hidden but present as we do God's work?

### Reason

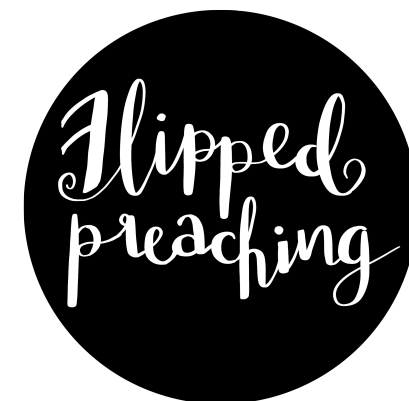
Write down some thoughts that you have had about God, these passages, and your life.

### Tradition

What have other people said about these themes? Write down any lyrics from hymns that have been in your head, insights from books or social media, or encounters that you have had with people.

### Experience

Make a note of the times when God has spoken to you this month through your 'spiritual senses', times when you've felt a sense of depth.



There is a video for each week that you can watch at [www.youtube.com/c/andyfishburne](http://www.youtube.com/c/andyfishburne)



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