

Reflections for team me

Day one

Expect the unexpected

(YHQ LI ZH KDYH GRQH D FOXE EHIRUH WKH ¿UVW GD\ LV DOZ
show up? What will the children be like? Are we up to doing this? But, perhaps more importantly,
FDQ ZH PHHW HYHU\RQH¶V LQFOXGLQJ RXU RZQ H[SHFWDWL
\RXU ¿UVW WLPH GRLQJ WKLV

The two readings today are about defying expectations.

7KH ¿UVW LV DERXW WKH ER\ -HVXV ZKR ZHRSW FV XULHQ JIRP D
the most perfect, obedient child ever. This story shows him as anything but matching these
imaginings. He has run off from his parents and is holding his own with the best theologians of his
day as a child prodigy. When his parents discover him, he gives them a snotty comment that must
have been rather annoying after scaring them half to death.

6LPLODUO\ WKH PXVWDUG VHHG SDUDEOH LV QRW ZH H[SHFW
was talking about, but they are normally small, smelly shrubs that attract vermin, not the stately
trees of our fond imagination.

The point is that we often feel less open to new experiences and want to remain in our comfort
]RQHV :H PD\ EH XQXVHG WR KDYLQJ VWUDQJH SHRSOH LQ R
of past events or even long past events when people behaved differently. We may hate to admit
things have changed radically.

We urge you to park these feelings and expectations. Be open to something new. The new people
who may be attracted to our holiday offering can help us learn and be blessed through our time
WRJHWKHU ,I ZH GR WKLQJV LQ SDUWQHUVKLS ZH ERWK EHG

%H RSHQ WR PXWDOLW\ DQG VXUSULVHV *RG FDQ EH VXUSU

What are the opinions and expectations you need to park in order to be open to the new
experiences that this week offers?

'LVREHGLHQW GLVUXSWLYH -HVXV

Help us to lay aside our preconceptions.

Help us to put away our fears and worries about this week.

Holy Spirit, blow through our souls and through our buildings,

Clearing out our mustiness,

And bringing freshness to our souls and our lives.

We ask that you bless us in all we do this week.

Amen.





3XWVWKVHUHDCWRHUKUZHFWDFOHDFVVDHWT2.WRIHHODVRKHHOEWHYHURQ
VZVRFUFUFOHRIFRCHUCIRVWDSDUHQURUFRZRUNHU2UWDFWDFWDOZDV
VHHFWREHZKUHVKVROQ,REHDFDFWFOPHSDSROHDD
EDOFRODDSDCHHNSVSWHEHVWHIIRUWVWRNHHSWUDFNRIEMERIV
can be annoying. But that doesn't mean we don't care about and for them.

Continue – you're doing great!

RZBZHFRVWRZRUNWRHUKUDIYDGLHYDDVDVWKZHHNSURUHVHVH"

/RUBVXHYHSDVNHCNVRDQDVSHUDWRQ
:RUDRHRSOHFRODMXWZDWRHBCNWRB
YHXWUWVRIWKVSLWORYHMRSHDFHSDWHEHNVBRQVVIDWKEVVDCHOI
control.
Use us beautifully.
We are yours.
Amen.

Day four



/RUBVXZHDUHV BODWDSRDBM VWRU\

/HWXVWDDG HVW DODG DYRW\

/HWXEHV KRFR\

Acknowledging our realities and our complexities.

HOSXWRGEOHVVDK UHYHUZH DUH

In this bubble of time.

Amen.

Day five

The ongoing invitation

You've got there! Well done!

This week you've been doing the great commission – trying to make disciples and friends. If you haven't already, pat yourself on your backs!

The great banquet parable tells us that it isn't always the obvious, or even the people we ask, who children but the shy, the quiet, those who might have struggled; the loud, noisy ones who have perhaps driven you to distraction. Think of the parents and carers, the people who have perhaps about dropping their kids off and running.

If we look at the parable, these are people who need a special invitation. They are most likely to it is taken up or not, tells people they are loved and valued.

Yes, this isn't always easy or comfortable but you've probably been doing it all week.

