



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

BEYOND LOCKDOWN

Opening up to life



***HOW TO
LIVE IN
A TIME
OF FLUX***

Finding opportunity in
a world of uncertainty

1. Are you someone who naturally likes the feeling of being 'out of control'? Think of a time when you were out of control, and it had a big impact. What happened?
2. In Numbers 14:1-8, the ancient people of Israel were in a time of uncertainty and change. The old life of slavery had gone, the new promised land was not yet here, but just around the corner. Compare the two different sets of reactions in verses 1-4 and 5-8. What kind of feelings do you think they had that led to these contrasting responses?
3. Are you more naturally likely to respond like the people in v1-4, or v5-8? Why is that? What is there in these verses that particularly speaks to you?

INTRO:

As we begin to edge our way out of lockdown, one word that seems to be used quite a lot is the word 'flux'. We are in a time of uncertainty and change, when some of us are beginning to think about getting back to normal. But what will normal look like? And when will we get there? How do we live in a time of flux? As we reflect on some of the ways that people in the Bible did just that, we begin to see the possibility for both certainty and opportunity as we step into the future. It's only in Jesus that we can grab hold of the future, whilst having the certainty of the past.

BIBLE:

Ecclesiastes 11:4; Numbers 14:1-8; Romans 5:8; Acts 16:6-10

4. In Acts 16:6-10, Paul is also in a state of flux. This passage demonstrates something important about how we often see our circumstances and what we know to be true about God in those circumstances. What do you think that is? How is that encouraging?
5. God is always building his kingdom in any time of flux and change. What might that mean for you as an individual, and us as a church, as we come out of lockdown?
6. In the light of what you have thought about, pray using the words of Romans 5:8. Ask that God would show you the truth of these verses and help you to show them to others so that they find hope in uncertainty.

A PRAYER

O Lord,
where our understanding falters,
where our knowledge dwindles,
where our expertise ends,
O Lord, you meet us there.
Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path
when we cannot see the next right step.

O Loving God, you have said this is your will:
to be joyful always
to pray continually
to give thanks
to do justice
to love kindness
to walk humbly with you.
Our portion is you and your redemptive work.

O Author and Perfecter of our faith,
you use us to write a beautiful story amid crisis.
As parts of your body,
appointed by the same Spirit,
we do not receive your grace in vain,
and trust we have everything
we need to abound in every good work.
Amen.

From 'A liturgy for those who feel stuck' by Church of the City, New York

ACTION

Write yourself some bible verses, on sticky notes, and put them in places that you will see to encourage you this week.