

# The Journey Uniting Church – Bible Reading Plan – February 2011

## Week 1 Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February - The Kingdom Heartbeat

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mark 12 :28-34	John 13:1-17	Matthew 25:31-46	Amos 5	Amos 6

When we understand that we are amazingly loved by God, this sets us free to love our fellow human beings. We are invited to lose our insecurities, anxieties and fears, as they melt away in an experience of the Spirit of God bringing the truth of the gospel of grace to us. This in turn overflows to those around us and sees us develop a passion for the marginalised and 'least of these'. This week, let God love you and let this love flow out to others!

## Week 2 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Our Response: "I give Everything"

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mark 12:41-44	Ecclesiastes 5:8-20	Luke 12:13-34	Malachi 3:6-18	Matthew 6:1-24

In his book, "The Vertical Self", Mark Sayers describes how many of us gain our sense of worth and identity on the horizontal plane (what we believe others think of us and what we do), rather than the vertical (what God thinks of us). In the story of the 'Widow's Offering' we see that many of us can fall into this trap when giving of our time, talent and treasure. We make much of our relatively small gift, hoping that others will see and think well of us. Jesus encourages us to examine our hearts and see the motives behind our giving. Our invitation this week is to understand that our position and identity is in Christ, then, like the widow, we can give everything- no strings attached!

## Week 3 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February Love with Legs:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1 John 3:11-20	Matthew 25:14-30	Romans 12:9-21	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Whatever you think of Darwinian Evolution, some of its proponents have a cheeky sense of humour. As a fairly obvious 'dig' at those of us who hold to a conservative Christian theology, they have produced a (I think) clever, yet to some offensive, sticker of a Christian fish symbol with legs. Ironically I think we can 'redeem' this mirth by considering how our love for others can evolve by growing 'legs'. Rather than just talking and thinking about 'loving others'- we truly love by exercising our legs. May we as Christians grow big, strong legs, ready to run to others in need!

## Week 4 Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February | Love you, man

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hSveZzXI48">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hSveZzXI48</a>	1 John 4:13-21	James 2:1-13	James 2:14-26	1 Corinthians 13

The youtube clip, we encourage you to watch on Day 2 this week describes a radical life of worship that involves loving others- make sure you check it out, pausing it at the relevant times for reflection. May God challenge and inspire us this week, to become who we already are in Christ, to worship Him by loving others!