



Small group discussion questions September 2016

Chapter & verse – Susan Durber (page 18)

Read Matthew 10:26-31 followed by Susan Durber's article.

1. Susan Durber's biblical reflection was inspired by the sight of a sparrow. Have you had any recent encounters that reminded you of God?
2. In the second paragraph of 'Chapter & verse', Susan says: 'God loves the cheap and the dull, the common and the small'. Do you agree? What biblical examples prove or disprove this?
3. In verse 29 of the Bible reading, Jesus says: 'Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.' How might we reconcile this image of 'God as destroyer' with the 'caring protector God' image portrayed in the latter verses? Are the two images contradictory?
4. Susan's third paragraph opens with the question: 'Do we fear that no one loves us, sees our grief, or shares our aching doubt and heights of desire?' Reflecting on this, what fears have arisen in your life, or in the lives of people you know/ know about?
5. How can we work towards living a less fearful life?
6. Paragraph five urges us feel the weight of this Bible passage and 'discover again that God values all creatures profoundly, and not only as parables for human beings.' What are you and your church doing to value God's creation? Can more be done?
7. Susan contemplates the breadth of God's love throughout the article, saying in the penultimate paragraph: 'God loves us all, not only the newsworthy and recorded.' Jesus tells us in verse 26 of the Bible reading: 'Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.' What people, places and concerns do you feel have been downplayed or left out of recent news reports? What difference might it make to remember God's love for them?

Reform

NEWS COMMENT INSPIRATION DEBATE

Columnist's review
Susan Durber Chapter & verse
 'These verses amaze me with what they reveal of the depth of God's love'

By Susan Durber

For me, these verses speak for a purpose? Not just one of them, but all of them will fall into the general spirit of your faith...'
MARSHALL, DEC 20 2014

When I read the story of the blind men touching an elephant, I often think about the people who have never seen the Lord Jesus, and my hope is that they will one day be able to touch Him. The Lord Jesus is the one who has revealed God to us, and we are to know Him by the way He has revealed Himself to us. The Lord Jesus is the one who has revealed God to us, and we are to know Him by the way He has revealed Himself to us. The Lord Jesus is the one who has revealed God to us, and we are to know Him by the way He has revealed Himself to us.

'A dead bird too is my neighbour and God's beloved'



For further reflection: 'Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?' Job 38:41

Prayer: God of all, your care for us, for creation, for those we see and those we do not, overwhelms our understanding. Thank you for your love of this world, for holding close to those we cannot. Through your spirit, help us to reflect your love, now and always. Amen.