

**Home Group Questions for  
Sermon on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

“The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.”  
*John 1:14*



**Sympathy vs Empathy**

Watch the following short video on YouTube found [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB0PFI4VAww). By Dr. Brene Brown  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB0PFI4VAww>

1. Can you think of any records in the bible, of Christs examples and teachings of Wisemans four qualities of empathy;
  - 'Perspective taking'
  - 'Staying out of judgement'
  - 'Recognising emotion in other people'
  - 'Communicating'
2. In the sermon, Pete talked about Christ giving us empathy rather than sympathy by climbing down into our 'dark hole' to be with us, so we are not alone and because He knows what it's like. How does God connect with us today and how do we feel about receiving this empathy?
3. How do we ensure, as Christians today, that we aren't the Goat in the clip and try to 'silver line' other's problems and instead connect with them? Do you have any good (or bad) examples of this, that might help others in the group, when they are being empathetic for someone in a 'dark hole'?
4. What do we feel about God sometimes answering our prayers straight away and sometimes putting us on the 'amber light' of not yet? In the clip the bear says "I don't know what to say right now. I am just glad you told me".
  - Do we feel this is what God says to us sometimes?
  - Is it actually our connection with Him, through the freedom in the incarnation, that is the first steps to becoming free from our 'Dark Hole'?
  - If so where does, or how do, we get this connection?
  - Does knowing that Jesus is empathetic to all our struggles change the way in which we might pray about them?
5. How do we drive connection with our fellow brothers and sisters, in this time of continuing isolation, using this tool of empathy?
6. Lastly, think and pray together (or on your own) about someone's 'dark hole' that is known to you. Why not connect with them this week, drawing alongside them with empathy, as Jesus exemplified for us in the Gospels.