

Life Group Notes

Life's First Cry

'Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.'
Psalm 139v16

To begin

What memories do you have of hearing 'life's first cry', perhaps of your own child or that of someone else? How did it make you feel?

Watch

If you have the technology, and if members of your Life Group haven't seen it, you may wish to watch the 'Life's First Cry' video. You can find it here:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/appeal/cry/>

Alternatively, you might like to show this reflection which we did not use at our Harvest service: <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/product/reflection-video-lifes-first-cry/>

For discussion

1. Read Genesis 3:16. What are the risks we take in having children? Are they worth taking?
2. Read Romans 8:22. How does the image of childbirth used by Paul speak into our world? What might it be saying to us about Afghanistan where the risk of child mortality is so much higher than in the UK?
3. In his sermon, Tim quoted from 'Magnificent', a song by U2:
 'I was born,
 I was born to sing for you
 I didn't have a choice but to lift you up
 And sing whatever song you wanted me to.
 I give you back my voice
 From the womb, my first cry, it was a joyful noise.'

How do you respond to the thought our first cry being a song of worship to the Creator?

4. In Afghanistan, BMS World Mission is teaching parents safer practices for pregnancy and birth. How does this demonstrate the good news of the kingdom? How might it bring people to know Christ?

5. Read Hebrews 13:2. In childbirth, there is a necessary flow of blood and water. On the cross, there was a flow of blood and water when Jesus' side was pierced (the separation of the clot and serum, which demonstrates that he was really dead). How does this speak to us of what it means to be 'born again' (John 3:3-7)?
6. Galatians 4:19 starts, 'My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...' How is Christ being formed in you? How is learning about the need in Afghanistan and other places a part of this formation?

Some prayer ideas

- Give thanks for the new birth that you have known in your family
- Pray for the new birth as Christians of family, friends, colleagues
- Pray for growth and new life in our church
- Pray for a speaker to be found for the forthcoming youth weekend, after our previous speaker had to drop out. At the time of writing, Tim is awaiting a call from a possible person.

Tim Edworthy
30th September 2018