



Walking solo or with others?

Week 3: Tuesday



Reading

Ecclesiastes 4.7-12

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: the case of solitary individuals, without sons or brothers; yet there is no end to all their toil, and their eyes are never satisfied with riches. 'For whom am I toiling', they ask, 'and depriving myself of pleasure?' This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Reflection

Walking solo and walking with others are both powerful metaphors for our journey through faith and through life. Walking alone offers solitude and space for personal reflection. Walking with others offers encouragement and safety.

In the journey of faith, there is room for walking solo and walking with others. Sometimes solitude is not a choice, but a reality imposed upon us by our circumstances. They both have lessons to teach and gifts to give.

But, when we find ourselves struggling to hope, we need connection with others. The writer of today's reading (Solomon) says 'a threefold cord is not quickly broken'. Alone, we are like a single cord. Our fears can overwhelm us, the relentless stream of bad news can leave us downhearted. But reaching out to another, perhaps even sharing our struggle to hope, can help renew our strength. God can deepen our hope through the presence of others.

Challenge

Think of a time you faced personal challenges with the support of others. What difference did it make?



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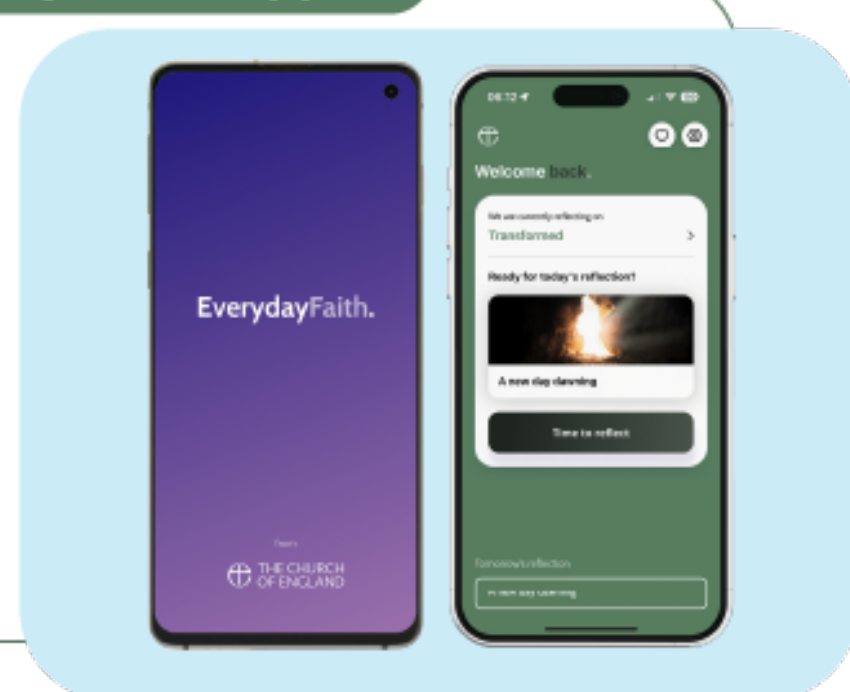
Taken from the *Living Hope* booklets published by [Church House Publishing](#).

The adults' reflections have been written by Cathrine Fungai-Ngangira and Belle Tindall (both among the authors of *Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025* (SPCK)) and Victoria Mason.

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