

What do you want?

Take a moment to find a place to sit comfortably.

If you have children with you, set them up with an activity (colouring in, toys to play with). Later today, you might like to talk them through doing this themselves. Perhaps you could have them draw a picture of what they would most like to see happen this year. Invite them to talk with Jesus about this. Is this something Jesus would like to give them, or is there something else He might like them to have?

But for now, relax by taking a few slow deep breaths. Invite God's Spirit to be at work in you, bringing to your consciousness the desires of your heart.

Read through any or all of the following passages. If you have your own Bible you are familiar with, you may choose to look up these readings yourself.

1 Kings 3:3-5 Solomon loved the LORD and followed all the instructions of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local altars. The most important of these altars was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed one thousand burnt offerings. That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, *"What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"*

Matthew 7:7-11 "Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.*"

Mark 10:46-52 "And so they reached Jericho. Later, as Jesus and His disciples left town, a great crowd was following. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road as Jesus was going by. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus from Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" some of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, He stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, He's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. *"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.* "Teacher," the blind man said, "I want

to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go your way. Your faith has healed you." And instantly the blind man could see! Then he followed Jesus down the road.

James 4:1-3 “What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn’t it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can’t possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. *And yet the reason you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask God for it.* And even when you do ask, you don’t get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Matthew 6:32-33 "Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and He will give you all you need from day to day *if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*"

Take some time to write down or draw on the reverse page your response to Jesus' question today: "What do you want?"

"What do you want?"

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.