

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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World Cup Final Day

Now, I can't pretend to be a fan of 'the beautiful game' but when such a huge sporting event is taking place it's impossible to ignore.

At the beginning of this month, we hosted 'Experience Church' days for children from local primary schools. We invited a class of children at a time to visit our church building to find out more about why churches exist.

There were six 'stations' around the building – 'The Church Welcomes' at the font; 'The Church Prays' in a side chapel; 'The Church Serves' underneath the stained-glass windows; 'The Church Celebrates' at the altar; 'The Church Teaches' near the lectern and 'The Church Shares' at the door ([more information here](#)).

As small groups gathered at the door, we had discussions about why it's important that people *leave* as well as enter. We considered the final words spoken in many of our services: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ, Amen." We also looked at the Great Commission when Jesus tells his followers to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

On one of the mornings the classes from year 4, 5 and 6 from our church school visited. We asked each of the children to think about what they would like to share with others about God. To aid reflection we watched the goal celebration of German footballer Felix Nmecha in their match again Curaçao.

It's known as his signature 'crown down' gesture because he acts out laying an invisible crown at the foot of the cross. The children really engaged in thinking about why he chose to do this at a moment when so many eyes were on him.

As for what the children wanted to share, these are some of their responses:

- "God always has the time for everyone no matter who you are"
- "God is a very respectful person, He died on the cross for us and rose from the dead for us!"
- "God always listens and spreads his love to me and other people and he forgives us."

We might not have millions watching us like World Cup goal-scorers, but we can each make a commitment to share who God is and how following Jesus changes our lives.

What do you want to share? Where and how can you go and share it this week?

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