

ev/church



KNOWING GOD

JOHN 15-21

JOHN 15-21: KNOWING GOD

TERM 1	PASSAGE	
Week 1	Getting up to speed	Previously in John's Gospel...
Week 2	John 15:26-16:15	Jesus and the Advocate
Week 3	John 16:16-33	Sorrow Turned to Joy
Week 4	John 17:1-19	The Hour Has Come
Week 5	John 17:20-26	May They Be One
Week 6	John 18:1-14	The Cup
Week 7	John 18:15-32	Denied and Condemned
Week 8	John 18:33-19:16	Behold Your King!
Week 9	John 19:16-20:18	It is Finished!
Week 10	John 20:19-31	My Lord and My God!
Week 11	John 21:1-25	Feed my Lambs

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 1 – 2024

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



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GIVING AT EV CHURCH

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READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation he offers through his death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by his Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Here is a list of additional readings for each week of the term that will help you work through the Bible in two years. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them.

Track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

- Wk 1 Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2
- Wk 2 Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4
- Wk 3 Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6
- Wk 4 Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9
- Wk 5 Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11
- Wk 6 Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13
- Wk 7 Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15
- Wk 8 Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17
- Wk 9 Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19
- Wk 10 Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Wk 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Wk 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Wk 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Wk 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Wk 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Wk 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6

- Wk 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Wk 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Wk 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Wk 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Wk 1 Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16
- Wk 2 Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18
- Wk 3 Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20
- Wk 4 Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22
- Wk 5 Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24
- Wk 6 1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26
- Wk 7 1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28
- Wk 8 1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2
- Wk 9 2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4
- Wk 10 2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- Wk 1 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8
- Wk 2 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10

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|-------|---|--------------------------|-------|---|--------------------------|
| Wk 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 6 | Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 7 | Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 8 | Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 9 | Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 10 | Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Wk 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Wk 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

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|-------|--|--------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------|
| Wk 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 4 | Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 5 | Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 6 | Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 7 | Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 8 | Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 9 | Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 10 | Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Wk 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Wk 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

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|------|---|--------------------------|-------|---|--------------------------|
| Wk 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 4 | Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 5 | Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-5; Jude; Revelation 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 6 | Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 7 | Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 5 | Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wk 8 | Haggai 1-2; John 1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Wk 9 | Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Wk 10 | Malachi 1-4; John 18-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 3

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|-------|--|--------------------------|
| Wk 1 | Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 2 | Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 3 | Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 4 | Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 5 | Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 6 | Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 7 | Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 8 | Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 9 | Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 10 | Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 4

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|-------|---|--------------------------|
| Wk 1 | Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 2 | Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 3 | Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 4 | Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 5 | Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-5; Jude; Revelation 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 6 | Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 7 | Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 8 | Haggai 1-2; John 1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 9 | Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wk 10 | Malachi 1-4; John 18-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INTRODUCTION: KNOWING GOD

“This is eternal life,” says Jesus, “that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”. (John 17:3) What is the purpose of life? What will eternity look like? Jesus’ answer: You were made for relationship with God. That is to know him and be known by him.

The Book of John invites us to consider the big things of life – from its grand opening “In the beginning,” to the purpose statement that concludes the book “that by believing, you may have life in his name.” Jesus positions himself at the centre of all reality. He’s the one through whom God made all things, he’s the one who gives life, he’s the one – and the only one – through whom we can know the Father. And he wants to share the Father’s love and glory with us!

The Book of the Signs

John has been revealing Jesus’ identity and mission through a series of ‘signs’ – miracles performed by Jesus. These miracles are much more than party tricks though. They point to who Jesus is as the eternal Son of God. He has divine power and authority to give life, to restore God’s creation, and to gather his people. He even has authority over death itself! These signs ultimately point forward to the climax of John’s gospel: Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Believe While You Have the Light

We left the book last year just after a significant turning point. In John 12, Jesus was in Jerusalem giving his last public speech before the night of his arrest. In this speech, he explains the life-giving power of his imminent death (12:23) and he calls people to believe “while you have the light” (12:36). He warns that all people’s eternal destiny will hang on their response to him and his word (12:40-55).

The Farewell Discourse

We pick up the account on the night of Jesus’ arrest. He has gathered his closest disciples in an upper room. Last year we finished up here, part-way through one of Jesus’ longest recorded speeches: the ‘farewell discourse’. It’s a deep and personal window into Jesus’ relationship with his disciples. It’s therefore also a rich insight into the relationship he calls us into today. But as we listen to Jesus prepare his disciples for his departure, as he speaks of himself, his Father, and the Spirit whom he will send, we gain some of the richest insights into the inner life of our triune God – three persons in one being; a perfect, eternal, loving unity.

Knowing God

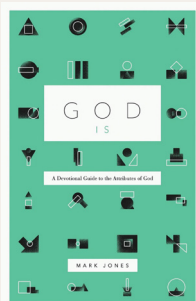
If life is about knowing God and being in relationship with him, how do we do this? We might find all kinds of responses to this question if we were to ask around – maybe it's impossible, maybe it's all relative. Maybe we know God through religious or spiritual experiences, a small inner voice. Maybe we just take the bits we like of all the different religions of the world.

John gives us quite a different answer. Jesus is about to reveal God's glory as he goes to the cross to suffer for sin. So that we might know him. From there he will rise from the dead, ascend to the Father and send his Spirit. So that we might know him. The Spirit will glorify Jesus and lead us, by faith, into perfect, loving relationship with the Father. So that we might know him. So that we can look forward with confidence to eternal life, that is, knowing God – Father, Son and Spirit. Would you join us in praying that this term God would be doing just that as we dig into his word: helping us know him and make him known. By his Spirit, through his word about his Son, the Word. And all this to the glory of the Father.

Book recommendation:

God is – A Devotional guide to the attributes of God

by Mark Jones



Every Christian needs to know God. In fact, not just Christians, but every creature has been made to know their creator. We're often good at explaining what God has done for us, and what we should do in response. But if we were asked, "Who is God?" or "What is God?", how would you answer? How well do we know our God?

"*God is*", by Mark Jones, isn't written to just give you a list of facts about God. Any real knowledge of God has a purpose – that we'd worship him! That we'd love and glorify him. "*God is*" is the kind of book you'll read more than once. The 26 chapters range from 5-10 pages each, are full of Bible reflection, and application. Any Christian could read this book and be encouraged, challenged, and stirred to love the God who is.

EASTER WEEK: TIMELINE AND MAP

THURSDAY

Evening

Jesus celebrates the Passover meal (John 13:1-2)

Farewell discourse (John 13-17)

1 (see map)

Late Night

Jesus taken to Annas (John 18:15)

3

FRIDAY

Early Morning

Jesus taken to Pilate (John 18:28)

Jesus mocked and beaten (John 19:1)

Jesus sentenced to death (John 19:16)

4

Evening

Jesus arrested in the garden (John 18)

2

Late Night

Jesus taken to Caiaphas (John 18:24)

9am

Jesus crucified (John 19:18; Mark 15:25)

Noon

Darkness (Mark 15:33)

3pm

Jesus dies (John 19:30; Mark 15:34)

Evening

Jesus pierced (John 19:34)

5

Jesus buried in Joseph's tomb (John 19:42)

6

SUNDAY

Early Morning

Mary and others visit the tomb (John 20:1)

Peter and John visit (John 20:3)

Jesus appears to Mary (John 20:11)

Evening

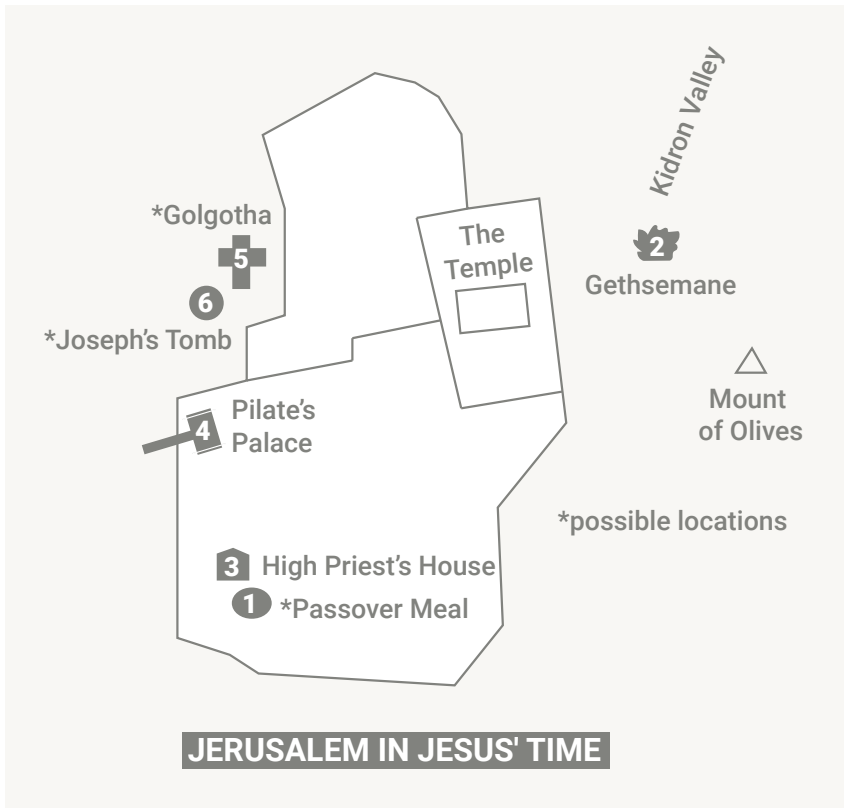
Jesus appears to the disciples (John 20:19)

SATURDAY

Jesus in the grave

6

6



WEEK 1: GETTING UP TO SPEED

This week at church we're finishing our summer mission series before getting back into John's gospel. We'll pick up where we hit pause last year, in the upper room with Jesus, on the night before his death. In the meantime, use this week to get across what's been going on in John so far. Here are some recent sections that set the scene, but you could also aim to read all of John 1-15!

The same three questions are repeated each day. For what it's worth, you could also use these questions to dig into any of the gospels!

DAY 1

Read John 10:1-30

What does this passage tell us about:

1. Who Jesus is?
2. What Jesus came to do?
3. What it looks like to trust Jesus?

Prayer: Bring these things to God by giving thanks, confessing your sin and asking for his help.

PREVIOUSLY IN JOHN'S GOSPEL...

DAY 2

John 11:17-44

What does this passage tell us about:

1. Who Jesus is?
2. What Jesus came to do?
3. What it looks like to trust Jesus?

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28;
2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12

Prayer: Bring these things to God by giving thanks, confessing your sin and asking for his help.

DAY 3

John 12:20-36

What does this passage tell us about:

1. Who Jesus is?
2. What Jesus came to do?
3. What it looks like to trust Jesus?

Prayer: Bring these things to God by giving thanks, confessing your sin and asking for his help.

WEEK 1: GETTING UP TO SPEED

DAY 4

John 14

What does this passage tell us about:

1. Who Jesus is?
2. What Jesus came to do?
3. What it looks like to trust Jesus?

Prayer: Bring these things to God by giving thanks, confessing your sin and asking for his help.

DAY 5

John 15:1-25

What does this passage tell us about:

1. Who Jesus is?
2. What Jesus came to do?
3. What it looks like to trust Jesus?

Prayer: Bring these things to God by giving thanks, confessing your sin and asking for his help.

PREVIOUSLY IN JOHN'S GOSPEL...

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: JOHN 15:26-16:15

DAY 1: He will testify about me

This week we pick up where we left off last year, part-way through an extended speech that Jesus gives to his eleven disciples in an 'upper room'. This is happening on the night of Jesus' betrayal. Judas has left, and Jesus has been preparing his disciples for what comes next.

Read John 15:26-27

1. Jesus refers to the Spirit as the 'advocate'. You might have also heard the word translated as 'comforter' or 'helper' or even 'paraklete' (the latter is actually just the sounds of the Greek word converted into English letters). What do these words show us about who the Spirit is and what he does to us and for us?
2. Earlier, in 14:16, Jesus used this same word, describing the Spirit as '*another* advocate'. Read that verse and consider: what is revealed about Jesus' relationship with the Spirit? How are they the same, and how are they different?
3. In these chapters, we're going to be given many insights into the nature of the Trinity. Particularly, insights into how the different persons, Father, Son and Spirit, relate to one another and to us. Consider these two verses together, what is revealed in each about the distinct relations between Father, Son and Spirit? (Who sends who? Who 'goes out' / 'proceeds' from who?)
4. In these verses, we see both an order and distinction in the members of the Trinity, as well as a unity of purpose and action. What would you say is the goal of this action in 15:26-27?

Prayer: Thank God that he has revealed himself in three persons working in perfect unity for his glory and our good. Thank God for the finished work of our advocate Jesus on the cross, the ongoing work of Jesus as he intercedes for us, and for the ongoing work of our advocate, the Spirit, as he reveals Jesus to us.

JESUS AND THE ADVOCATE

DAY 2: Remember, I warned you

Read John 16:1-4a

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4;
Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14

1. In verse 1, 'all this' refers most immediately to 15:18-27. Read over these verses and summarise what Jesus has been telling his disciples.
2. What reason does Jesus give in 16.1 for why he is saying these things? How does him saying these things prevent this outcome?
3. How does the context of anticipated suffering in 15:18-27 shine new light on the promise of the Spirit coming to testify about Jesus? Why is the Spirit's work necessary in this context?
4. Re-read verses 2-3. Jesus describes the behaviour of those who think they are offering service to God. What reason does Jesus give for this behaviour (verse 3)? How should we regard those who oppose us as Christians? What ought our prayers for them be from this verse?

Prayer: Ask God to help us shape our expectations of the Christian life around the experience of Jesus and his words to us. Ask that the advocate would remind us of Jesus and all we have in him in the times that following him causes us suffering. Ask that he might keep us and our brothers and sisters from falling away. Ask that when we are opposed for our faith we might have perspective to see the spiritual plight of those who oppose us and pray for their salvation.

WEEK 2: JOHN 15:26-16:15

DAY 3 : It is for your good that I am going

Read John 16:4b-7

1. Why are the disciples grieving? What does Jesus want them to understand?
2. Why is it good for the disciples that Jesus leaves?
3. Jesus says, unless he goes the advocate will not come. This is not because he is the advocate and needs to go and do a costume change! (This would be a form of the heresy called 'modalism' whereby God exists sometimes as Father, sometimes as Son and sometimes as Spirit.) No, Jesus has already clearly referred to the Father and Spirit as distinct persons from himself (eg. 15:25). Rather, this is about what Jesus is yet to accomplish. What light do the following verses shed on what must happen before the Spirit comes?
 - a. Isaiah 11:1-10
 - b. Joel 2:28-32
 - c. John 18:4 and 11
 - d. John 19:28-30
4. It can be tempting to think that the Christian life would be easier if we lived in the time when Jesus was physically here on earth. How do these verses correct that view? How ought these verses make us thankful to live in this time of the Spirit?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus went to the cross and ascended to the Father so that we could receive his Spirit. Give thanks that he remains with us by his Spirit, and that we are blessed to live in an age where we have his presence always.

JESUS AND THE ADVOCATE

DAY 4: The Spirit in the world

Read John 16:7-11

Jesus continues to teach about the work of the Spirit.

1. When the Spirit comes, what will he do? Why?¹
2. In what sense might the world be “wrong” about:
 - a. Sin?
 - b. Righteousness?
 - c. Judgement?
3. How do the following verses help make sense of these statements?
 - a. John 3:19-20, 6:21
 - b. Isaiah 64:5, Matthew 5:20
 - c. John 7:24
4. What continuity can you see between what the Spirit will do and what Jesus has been doing? Why is it good then that the Spirit comes?
5. Given what the disciples have been asked to do in 15:27, how would these verses help them take heart in that task? What encouragement do you find in them?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has sent his Spirit so that people may come to a knowledge of the truth. Ask that God would continue to shape your heart to see the evil of sin, and the depths of our need for Christ and his judgement. Ask that he might be at work in your community and on the Coast to convict people of their need for Jesus and that he might use you in that work.

¹You may be familiar with a slightly older translation “...he will *convict* the world about sin...”. The sense ends up being much the same.

WEEK 2: JOHN 15:26-16:15

DAY 5: He will glorify me

Read John 16:12-15

1. When the Spirit comes, what does Jesus say he will do?
2. What do you think is meant by “he will guide you into all truth”? How do the following verses help sharpen our understanding of this promise?
 - a. John 14:26
 - b. John 15:26
 - c. John 16:14
 - d. Hebrews 1:1-3a
3. This promise may be easily misunderstood in its application. Who is this promise being made to in the original context? How might we benefit from this promise being fulfilled to them?
4. What (or rather who) is the focus of the Spirit’s work in these verses? How should this shape what we expect the Spirit to be doing in our lives?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has made himself known through his Son and his Spirit. Give thanks for his faithfulness to this promise in the provision of his Spirit-breathed word so that we can know him today. Ask that God would be at work by his Spirit to glorify his Son in your eyes and in the eyes of others.

JESUS AND THE ADVOCATE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: JOHN 16:16-33

DAY 1: Your grief will turn to joy

Read John 16:17-20

1. In these verses, Jesus mentions two “little whiles”. What does he say will happen after each “little while”? What events do you think he is referring to? (There are a couple of options!)
2. What are the different reactions of the world and the disciples to these events? Why are they so different?
3. How do you see these reactions playing out today?
4. What hope does Jesus give to the disciples? How and when do you think this will happen? What encouragement is this to you today?

Prayer: Give thanks for the joy we have in knowing God as our Father through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. May he help us to long for the fullness of that joy at Jesus’ return. Ask that more and more people would move from darkness to light, from rejoicing in their opposition to Jesus, to finding lasting joy in him.

SORROW TURNED TO JOY

DAY 2: No one will take away your joy

Read John 16:20-22

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4;
Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16

1. What is the time being spoken of here (see yesterday)?
2. Jesus adopts the metaphor of childbirth to describe what the disciples' experience will be like. What similarities does he draw between childbirth and the disciples' experience? Why do you think he uses this metaphor?
3. What, if anything, is unique to the apostles' experience in this regard and what is true of all Christians? (See also Romans 8:22-25, 2 Timothy 3:12.)
4. In light of today's verses how would you respond to the following ideas:
 - a. "It's important that Christians put a positive spin on things and honour God by not being too down about life."
 - b. "Being in Christ protects you from hardship in this life."

Prayer: Thank God that we can be honest about suffering and grief in a world marked by sin, suffering, and, at times, suffering for bearing the name of Christ. Give thanks for the promise of abiding joy that is given us in Christ.

WEEK 3: JOHN 16:16-33

DAY 3: The Father loves you

Read John 16:22-27

Jesus gives some time to discussing who the disciples go to with their requests, and to whom they will go in the future.

1. What changes does he anticipate?
2. What change does this express in their relationship with the Father?
3. What does this reveal about what Jesus' death and resurrection will achieve? (See also John 14.)
4. What does it mean to ask things "in Jesus name"? How does 14:13 help?

Prayer: Thank God that we can come to him as our Father because of Jesus. Ask that by his Spirit he would remind us of our status as his children. Ask that his Spirit would help us to know what will glorify his Son in our lives and to prayerfully seek these things.

SORROW TURNED TO JOY

DAY 4: Do you now believe?

Read John 16:28-32

1. What do the disciples now believe, and why?
2. What does Jesus reveal to them about the strength of their faith?
3. Jesus has just been making incredible promises to his disciples of comfort and hope, despite knowing that they are about to abandon him. What does this show us about the nature of his love?
4. How is this a comfort to you when you fail?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for his gracious, forgiving character. Confess to him the times when you feel you have failed him recently, give thanks for his forgiveness of those things and ask for his help to trust in Jesus.

WEEK 3: JOHN 16:16-33

DAY 5: Take heart!

Read John 16:33

1. Why has Jesus told his disciples these things?
2. What does Jesus say will be the experience of his disciples in the world? What consolation does he offer in the midst of this experience?
3. What do you think it means that Jesus has overcome the world? (See also John 12.31.)
4. Where do you tend to go to feel at peace? How is the peace that Jesus offers different?
5. What situations in your life are causing you trouble at the moment? How does Jesus' victory give you perspective on these things?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus has defeated Satan, and given us assurance of eternal joy with him. Ask God to let his peace, which passes all understanding, guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

SORROW TURNED TO JOY

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: JOHN 17:1-19

The start of John 17 represents a significant shift in the scene we've been engaging with so far. Jesus moves from speaking to his disciples, to speaking to his Father. This is an incredible and precious part of scripture as it gives us one of the deepest insights into the Son's relationship with the Father.

DAY 1: Glorify your Son

Read John 17:1-19

1. Re-read verses 1-5. Jesus has been speaking about 'an hour' that is coming. What is this 'hour'? What will happen, what will be the result? (See John 12:23-24.)
2. Count how many times the word 'glory' is used in verses 1-5. In each case, who is glorifying who? When? How?
3. What does this show us about:
 - a.. Who Jesus is, and what he is worthy of?
 - b. The Father's relationship with the Son?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he is worthy of all glory. Give thanks that he is perfectly complete in himself in the love and glory that the persons of the trinity share. Ask that he would be glorified in our eyes, on the Coast and beyond.

THE HOUR HAS COME

DAY 2: Given by the Father

Read 17:1-8

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113;
1 Corinthians 1-2

1. Who does Jesus give eternal life to?
2. What has he done to/for them? How have they responded?
3. How does this fit with our experience of 'choosing' Jesus? How do these verses help?
 - a. John 15:16
 - b. John 6:44
 - c. John 1:12-13
4. How is this a humbling thing? How is it a comforting thing? (See also 6:37, 10:28-29.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God gives life! Thank him that he is able to work in complete unity of purpose – Father, Son and Spirit – to bring life to those he has chosen. Ask that he might enable you to believe and to obey the Son, and that many more on the Coast might do likewise.

WEEK 4: JOHN 17:1-19

DAY 3: This is eternal life...

Read John 17:1-8

1. How do we gain eternal life?
2. What 'is' eternal life? What do you think this means?
3. How is this different from popular ideas of heaven? How ought it shape what we hope and long for about eternity?
4. If eternal life is about knowing God and being in relationship with him, how can you taste 'heaven' now?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he wants for us to know him and be known by him. Ask that he would help us by his Spirit to treasure our relationship with him above all other things. Ask that we might walk in communion with him daily, and enjoy knowing and being known by him.

THE HOUR HAS COME

DAY 4: In the world, not of the world

Read John 17:9-19

1. Who does Jesus pray for? Why? Who does he not pray for? Why?
2. What does Jesus want for his disciples?
3. What do we learn about what the experience of following Jesus will be like?
4. What does Jesus send his disciples into the world for? (See also John 18:37.)
5. What things could you pray for yourself and others in light of Jesus' prayers?

Prayer: Pray in light of your response to question 5.

WEEK 4: JOHN 17:1-19

DAY 5: Sanctify them by your truth

Read John 17:16-19

1. How will God sanctify his people?
2. How does this shape your view of God's word? Consider:
 - a. His purpose in giving it to us
 - b. Our expectations as we read it
3. What is unusual about verse 19? (See also John 10:36.)
4. Consider the way the word 'sanctify' is being used in the following verses. What is being sanctified and why? (Note, 'sanctify', 'consecrate', 'make holy', and 'set apart' all translate the same Greek word, 'hagiazō'.)
 - a. Exodus 28:36-38
 - b. Exodus 29:1
 - c. Deuteronomy 15:19-20
 - d. Hebrews 10:8-10
5. What do you think Jesus is saying in John 17:19?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus gave himself as the last priest and sacrifice, so that we could be holy to God. Ask that God would continue to purify us by his Spirit through his word, that we may grow into our status as his holy people, set apart for him.

THE HOUR HAS COME

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: JOHN 17:20-26

DAY 1: Belief through the message

Read John 17:20-23

1. Who has Jesus been praying for? Who does he now pray for?
2. How does he anticipate that these people will come to know and believe in him? (verse 20)
3. How should this shape our attitude to the words of the apostles preserved for us in scripture?
4. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus prayed for you?

Prayer: Give thanks for Jesus' knowledge and love of all his people down the ages. May he give us a commitment to his word, to know and believe in him, and to make him known that others might believe.

WEEK 5: JOHN 17:20-26

DAY 3: Glorified

Read John 17:20-23

1. What does Jesus give to his disciples?
2. According to John 12:23-26, where is Jesus' glory most clearly seen?
3. What does this suggest about what sharing Jesus' glory will look like in this life?
4. How does this come about in us? (See also 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God desires to share his glory with us, both in making himself known in Christ, and drawing us into relationship with him through Christ. Ask that he may transform us by his Spirit so that, more and more, we might reflect Christ's glory to the world.

WEEK 5: JOHN 17:20-26

DAY 5: Known

Read John 17:24-26

1. What does Jesus want for his disciples? Why?
2. Where is Jesus going? (See John 17:13, 14:2.)
3. Why do you think he wants this for them? How do the following verses help?
 - a. Romans 8:30
 - b. Philippians 3:20-21
 - c. 1 John 3:2-3
4. How do these verses comfort and encourage you knowing that Jesus has prayed this for you?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus wants us to be with him and be transformed to be like him in all his glory. Ask that God might bring this prayer about by the work of his Spirit in us.

MAY THEY BE ONE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: JOHN 18:1-14

DAY 1: A willing sacrifice

Read John 18:1-4

1. How did Judas know about the garden? Why do you think John highlights this?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to go to this location given he knew what Judas was doing?
3. What do the following verses show about Jesus' attitude towards his death?
 - a. John 6:51
 - b. John 10:11
 - c. John 10:17-18
4. Jesus willingly and knowingly gave his life so that we could have life.
 - a. What does this show of his love for you?
 - b. How does this encourage you to sacrificially love others?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus was a willing sacrifice for our sin. Ask that he might encourage us with the knowledge of his love for us, and, by his Spirit, transform us to love like he does, deliberately and sacrificially.

THE CUP

DAY 2: "I am"

Read John 18:1-8

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10;
1 Corinthians 5-6

1. What is surprising about the exchange in verses 4-8?
2. Why might the priests, officials and soldiers be surprised that Jesus would identify himself so willingly?
3. The words Jesus identifies himself with, "I am he", are literally translated simply "I am". What do the following verses show about the significance of these words?
 - a. Exodus 3:14
 - b. John 8:57-59
 - c. John 13:18
4. What does this add to our understanding of:
 - a. Who it was that died on the cross?
 - b. The character of our God?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's incredible mercy that he would take on flesh in the person of the Son and give his life for our salvation.

WEEK 6: JOHN 18:1-14

DAY 3: Fulfilment

Read John 18:7-9

1. What reason does John give for Jesus' words in verse 9?

2. Check out the following verses to see how this idea has been developed earlier. Why does it matter that his words are fulfilled?
 - a. John 6:36-39

 - b. John 17:12

3. If Jesus' words are fulfilled in time and space just a few moments later, what does this show about:
 - a. Jesus' authority over history?

 - b. The power of his word? (See also John 5:25.)

 - c. His ability to save and protect his people? (John 10:28)

4. How do these ideas encourage you to:
 - a. Trust in Jesus' words?

 - b. Rely on his power to save?

Prayer: Honour God as the one whose word upholds and determines all of reality. Ask that he would protect and preserve you by the power of his word. Ask that he would help you trust in, depend on, and hunger for his word.

THE CUP

DAY 4: The cup

Read Psalm 75

In John 18, Peter attempts to defend himself and Jesus with a sword. Jesus responds “shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”. The idea of drinking the cup of the Lord is a theme that develops in the Old Testament. Psalm 75 is one of the occasions it occurs.

1. What does the psalmist praise God for?
2. How does the psalmist describe God’s judgement?
3. What does the metaphor of the cup add to this picture in the psalm?
4. In light of this psalm, what do you think it means in John 18 for Jesus to “drink the cup” the Father has given him?

Note: You could also have a look at the following passages to see how the idea of the cup of God’s wrath develops, and answer the same questions above for each:

- a. Isaiah 51:17-23
- b. Jeremiah 25:15-29
- c. Revelation 14:9-11

Prayer: Praise God for his perfect, righteous justice. Confess your own guilt before him and your deservedness of his punishment. Praise him for his mercy that Jesus was willing to drink the cup that we deserve. Ask that he would give us a humble gratitude for saving us from what our sin deserves. Ask that he would fill us with an urgent desire to see others saved from his wrath.

WEEK 6: JOHN 18:1-14

DAY 5: One for many

Read John 18:8-14

1. What is surprising about Peter's actions in verse 10 given what Jesus has just said?
2. John casts our mind back to an earlier interaction with Caiaphas (see John 11:47-53). What else is said here of what Jesus' death will achieve?
3. Keep in mind what Jesus said in verse 11 about drinking the "cup". What does the idea of Jesus dying 'for the people' add to our understanding of his death?
4. Given the necessity of Jesus' death to save us from sin, what is foolish and futile about Peter's attempt to save himself with the sword? How might you be tempted to do similar things? What might it look like for you?

Prayer: Give thanks that our triune God has made a way for us to be saved. Give thanks that Jesus was willing to give his life to drink the cup on behalf of his people, including us. Ask that we would renounce any and all attempts to save ourselves. Ask that we may each take our part in seeing thousands on the Coast and beyond saved from God's wrath.

THE CUP

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: JOHN 18:15-32

DAY 1: You will disown me three times

Read John 13:31-38

Today's passage gives some crucial context for the scene we will focus on this week.

1. How does verse 31 frame our understanding of what is about to happen in Jesus' death?
2. Consider the exchange in verses 36-38. What do these verses reveal about:
 - a. The limits of Jesus' knowledge and what he is able to do?
 - b. The limits of Peter's knowledge and what he is able to do?
3. Peter seems overly optimistic about his own capacity to understand and follow Jesus. How ought his example humble us in our estimate of what we are capable of?
4. Despite Jesus' knowledge of Peter's imminent failure, he is adamant that Peter will be among his people. How is this a comfort to you as you consider your own failures past, present and future?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's incredible grace that while he knows us deeply (even the sins we are yet to commit), he loves and accepts us in Christ. Ask that he give us humility in our estimation of ourselves and joyful confidence in his grace to us in Christ.

DENIED AND CONDEMNED

DAY 2: Hero or coward?

Read John 18:15-27

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48;
Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8

1. Summarise the key steps in the narrative.
2. How do you think John wants us to think of Peter? What is courageous about his behaviour here? What is cowardly?
3. What do you think is going on for Peter as he denies Jesus? What is he fearful of? What is he forgetting?
4. When are you most likely to be ashamed of following Jesus? What would you want yourself to remember in those moments?

Prayer: Give thanks that God is gracious and forgives Peter and us! Ask him to give us such a large view of Jesus and his glory, such a deep affection for our saviour that we would endure anything out of love and loyalty to him.

WEEK 7: JOHN 18:15-32

DAY 5: God's unseen hand

Read John 18:26-32

1. What does verse 32 suggest about the Jews ability to legitimately convict Jesus? How does this reinforce John's portrayal of Jesus' character?
2. Only Romans were technically able to sentence people to death. Had Jesus been killed by the Jews, it would likely have been by the traditional method of stoning (as in John 8:59, 10:31, Acts 7:58). What significance does John see in this? (See 18:32 and 12:32-33.)
3. Jesus is no passive victim. In the midst of the injustice of these human powers, John enables us to see God's sovereign hand at work and the effective power of Jesus' own words. What confidence can this give us:
 - a. In the meaning and power of Jesus' death?
 - b. In God's ability to work through all circumstances for his glory and our good?

Prayer: Praise God for his sovereignty over all things, good and evil. Give thanks for the cross as the prime example of God using evil for good. Ask that he would give us deep confidence in the cleansing power of the cross and in his ability to work in all circumstances.

DENIED AND CONDEMNED

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: JOHN 18:33-19:16

DAY 1: Sword or testimony?

Read John 18:33-37

1. What evidence does Jesus give for his kingdom being 'not of this world'?
2. Back in the garden (18:10), Peter did in fact attempt to put up a fight to prevent Jesus' arrest. What does that reveal about Peter's misunderstanding of Jesus' mission? (See also Mark 8:31-33.)
3. Rather than taking a kingdom by force, what does Jesus say he came to do? (See verse 37.)
4. Jesus' kingdom will come on earth as in heaven one day. For now though, how do these verses help us understand the nature of his kingdom and how to take our part in seeing it grow? How might we expect people to respond?

Prayer: Worship Jesus as a humble king. Ask that his kingdom would come and that his testimony might be known by more and more people. Ask that God would stay the hand of violence around the world, especially of those who claim religious grounds for acts of violence.

BEHOLD YOUR KING!

DAY 2: Substitute

Read John 18:38-19:6

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96;
Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10

1. What phrase does Pilate repeat three times in this passage? Why do you think John records all three occurrences?
2. While Jesus' innocence is highlighted, what do we learn about Barabbas?
3. Barabbas, a criminal, is released, while Jesus, an innocent, is condemned.
 - a. What does this show us about the Jews and the human heart?
 - b. How does this help us understand, in miniature, the effect of Jesus' death?
4. What would it look like for you to identify with Barabbas in this story? What could you repent of? What could you be thankful for?

Prayer: Give thanks that Christ died, the innocent in place of the guilty. Ask his forgiveness for the way that we reject his rule over our lives. Reaffirm your gratitude for him taking your place and the punishment you deserve. Ask for his help to live humbly, joyfully and obediently under his loving rule.

WEEK 8: JOHN 18:33-19:16

DAY 3: A slap in the face

Read John 19:1-7

1. List the things that are done to Jesus in these verses.
2. Take a moment to reflect on and imagine what each of these would have been like to experience. What stands out to you?
3. What is fitting about a crown and robe for Jesus? What would be an appropriate response to Jesus' true identity (see verse 3 and 7)? How can you give expression to this response in your own life this week?
4. Seeing how Jesus is treated here, what comfort is there here for those who suffer or have been mistreated? (See also Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15.)

Prayer: Honour Jesus as the Son of God worthy of our praise, worship and obedience as King. Grieve the evil in our world and our own heart that would reject him. Give thanks for his willingness to endure such mistreatment for our salvation, and to secure our future in a place with no suffering or evil.

WEEK 8: JOHN 18:33-19:16

DAY 5: Shall I crucify your king?

Read John 19:11-16

1. What do you think is motivating Pilate's behaviour in verses 12-13?
2. What is wrong with the Jewish leaders' responses to Pilate in verses 12 and 15? (See also verses 7 and 11.)
3. There's a note of disbelief in Pilate's question, "shall I crucify your king?" Why might he be surprised? What does this show of the Jewish leaders' view of Jesus?
4. It's easy to look down the tunnel of history and shake our heads at the Jewish leader's rejection of Jesus. How are you going at living under Jesus' rule today? Consider a few different spheres of your life (eg. home, extended family, workplace, social spaces), what might it look like to honour Jesus' rule in these different areas? How can you emulate his heart of costly humility?

Prayer: Lord, we praise you that you sent your Son to become a man, to live in our world, in human society, to be mistreated, mocked and dishonoured by it, so that we might be saved. Give us a clarity to see and honour his rule, to live humbly under it, even when it means discomfort from those around us.

BEHOLD YOUR KING!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: JOHN 19:16-20:18

DAY 1: Numbered among the transgressors*

Read John 19:16-24

1. What does John highlight in verse 18? Why might this be significant?
2. Jump across to Isaiah 53:12. This verse describes someone's death.
 - a. What is described about the circumstances of the death?
 - b. What is said about the effect or outcome of the death?
 - c. What is the future of the one who died?
3. Given Jesus is 'numbered among the transgressors', as described in Isaiah 53:12, what is John saying by highlighting this in verse 18?
4. In the lead up to Good Friday, take some time to reflect on your ongoing need for forgiveness.
 - a. In what ways have you 'transgressed' recently (ie, gone beyond what God would want you to do)?
 - b. In what ways have you 'sinned' recently (ie, failed to do what is right – either towards God or others)?

Prayer: Lord God, I confess that I have transgressed in the following ways... I acknowledge that I have sinned in the following ways... Father, forgive me. Thank you that Jesus was numbered among transgressors in his death, even though he was not one. Thank you that because he died a sinners' death, I can be forgiven. Lord Jesus, intercede for me before the Father. Father, accept my prayer in Jesus' name. Spirit, give me full assurance that Jesus' death can take away my sins and transgressions.

*"Transgressor" is a very similar word to "sinner". There is a slight distinction which is worth noting though. "Sin" refers to falling short of God's standards – failing to do what is right, while "transgression" is about going beyond a boundary that God has established, beyond what he permits. Both words are used in this passage. Both are true of all people, and both are addressed in the death of Jesus.

IT IS FINISHED!

DAY 2: Preparing a home

Read John 19:25-27

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144;
Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12

1. Re-read this little moment that John captures and write down a list of the people involved. What is asked of whom?
2. Why do you think Jesus is making these arrangements? What is it achieving?
3. As Jesus says these words, he is enduring the most excruciating pain human beings have been able to inflict on one another. What does it show of his character that he would think of, and act on these concerns at this moment?
4. How does this small interaction recorded by John, point to the character of God being worked out in the cross?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you demonstrated your love for the world by sending your Son to suffer and die for sinners. Thank you that, just as Jesus ensures provision for his mother for this life while on the cross, he also ensures, in his death, provision of eternal safety and comfort for his people in the life to come. Lord, shape my heart to trust in this hope, and to be like him in deep concern for the needs of others.

WEEK 9: JOHN 19:16-20:18

DAY 3: The scorned Messiah

Read Psalm 69:1-4, 19-36

This is a psalm written originally by (or possibly about) the 'Messiah', King David. The title, 'Messiah' simply means 'anointed one'. It was primarily for the kings of Israel, and later became associated with the promised redeemer of God's people. John quotes verse 21 of this Psalm as being fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:28).

1. In the psalm, what is the Messiah experiencing? How do you see this reflected and fulfilled in the experience of Jesus?
2. What fate awaits the enemies of the Messiah in the psalm (see especially verses 22-27)? How might this be similar to the fate of those who reject Jesus?
3. What hope and confidence does the psalmist hold for those "who seek God"? What claim is John making by seeing this psalm fulfilled in the execution of Jesus?
4. What insights does this psalm give into:
 - a. The experience of Jesus on the cross?
 - b. The hope and comfort offered by the cross?

Prayer: Lord God, we praise you that your Messiah, Jesus, was willing to suffer. Thank you that he entered our world of suffering and endured the worst of it. We grieve the wickedness of our world such that this is how we treated him when he came to us. We confess that we are "needy" of your mercy. Thank you that through his cross, you have brought salvation to your people. We pray that you would turn more and more hearts to seek you, to be saved from your right wrath, and to anticipate the fullness of your salvation. Amen.

IT IS FINISHED!

DAY 4: The One who was pierced

Read Zechariah 12:8-13:1

In John 19:33-37, John describes the piercing of Jesus' body by the soldiers after his death. He then describes this as a fulfilment of Zechariah 10:12.

1. In Zechariah, how will God protect his people (Jerusalem)?
2. Who is it that is pierced in Zechariah 12:10? Given that John sees Jesus' piercing as a fulfilment of this prophecy, what claim is he making about Jesus' identity?
3. As Jesus is pierced, blood and water flow out. What flows out from Jerusalem in Zechariah 13:1? What insight does this give into the purpose of Jesus' death?
4. As Jesus dies, his disciples mourn but that grief is soon turned to joy (see John 16:20).
 - a. In light of these verses, what ought we mourn in the death of Jesus?
 - b. What can we be thankful for and rejoice in?

Prayer: Give thanks that Yahweh took on flesh in the person of the Son and was pierced. Praise him for his mercy and grace in cleansing his people from sin and impurity. Acknowledge your own need for cleansing and receive his forgiveness. Ask that many more would know and receive the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

WEEK 9: JOHN 19:16-20:18

DAY 5: Pierced for our transgressions

Read Isaiah 53:3-11

John 19:32-34 describes the 'piercing' of Jesus' side. While John directly quotes Zechariah (as we saw yesterday), this detail also has strong echoes of Isaiah's 'Servant Song'.

1. Read over the passage and note:
 - a. How is the servant described?
 - b. How is the servant's experience described?
 - c. How are sinners described?
 - d. What is achieved in the servant's death?
2. What insights does this passage give you into:
 - a. Jesus and his experience on the cross?
 - b. Your need for his death?
 - c. What it achieves for you?

Prayer: Pray in light of your answers to question 2:
Lord, thank you that Jesus...
Sorry that I...
Thank you that through his death, I...

IT IS FINISHED!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: JOHN 20:19-31

DAY 1: Sent

Read John 20:19-23

1. What does verse 19 reveal about the disciples' situation? How are they feeling?
2. How is this alleviated in Jesus' arrival (verses 19-20)?
3. What does Jesus say in verse 21?
4. What was Jesus sent for (see, for instance, 19:37)? What is the same, what is different in what we are sent to do compared to Jesus? (See, for instance, Matthew 28:18-20.) What opportunities do you have to do this work this week?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus drives out fear and brings peace and joy. Ask that all God's people might know the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Jesus. Ask that he gives you courage and conviction to take your part in making disciples.

WEEK 10: JOHN 20:19-31

DAY 3: My Father and yours

Read John 20:1-18

1. What is Mary feeling, and why, in verses 11-13?
2. What is Mary's hope in verse 14-15? How is the reality in verse 16 greater?
3. What message does Jesus ask Mary to tell the disciples? What do these words show us about their new relationship with the Father achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection?
4. Why is it good that Jesus returns to the Father (see John 16:7, 27)? What hope and comfort can we share from these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks that God raised Jesus to life and that he is seated with him in heaven. Give thanks that through faith in Jesus we can call God our Father, just as Jesus is his Son. Ask that many more would come to share this joy and privilege.

MY LORD AND MY GOD!

DAY 4: My Lord and my God

Read John 20:24-29

1. What does Thomas say he requires in order to believe?
2. What is the connection between verse 25 and verse 27?
3. What does this show you about:
 - a. Jesus' knowledge of Thomas?
 - b. Jesus' patience and compassion with Thomas?
4. What is Thomas' response to Jesus? How is this different from where he started the story?
5. As John records Thomas' words to Jesus, what do you think he hopes will be our response to Jesus (see also 20:30-31)?

Prayer: Praise God for his patience and kindness in revealing himself. Ask that he would give more and more people faith to believe without seeing Jesus physically. Ask that he would give us and others a humble, worshipful heart that stands in awe of the risen Jesus.

WEEK 10: JOHN 20:19-31

DAY 5: The risen Jesus

Twice in John 20:19-29 John mentions that Jesus stood among the disciples 'even though the doors were locked'. Other gospel accounts have him appearing to the disciples, and then disappearing. Jesus has risen from the dead. His resurrection body is recognisably him, but at the same time... different.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

1. In this passage, compare what Paul says about our current bodies to our glorified, resurrection bodies. List the things that are similar and what is different.
2. What excites you the most about this?
3. How is this all possible? (See especially verses 54-56.)
4. What would Paul have us do with this confidence and hope? (Verse 58)

Prayer: Praise God as the one who raises the dead and gives eternal life! Thank him for the hope and confidence we have through the resurrection of Jesus. Ask that he would help us stand firm and give ourselves to the work of the Lord. Ask that more and more on the Coast and beyond would share this hope.

MY LORD AND MY GOD!

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 11: JOHN 21:1-25

DAY 1: Life in his name

Read John 20:30-21:14

1. Why has John recorded what he has written about Jesus? (See 20:30-31.)

2. How do we have eternal life? What do the following passages add?
 - a. John 3:18

 - b. John 5:24

 - c. John 6:37-39

 - d. John 10:27-28

3. What wrong views of salvation or relationship with God does this correct?

4. How would you summarise the gospel on the basis of these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's grace that he does not judge or condemn anyone who believes in Jesus. Pray that the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ would be preserved and passed on in our country to the next generation and to the nations. Ask that God would guard your faith in Jesus and bring many others to faith and life in him.

FEED MY LAMBS

DAY 2: Apart from me you can do nothing

Read John 20:1-14

1. Why do you think Peter and the disciples are going fishing? (See also Mark 1:16-20.)
2. What lesson do you think Jesus is teaching his disciples in the sign he performs in verses 3b-7?
3. Read John 15:5 and 15:16. What similarities do you see between these verses and the miracle Jesus has performed?
4. In what ways are you tempted to rely on yourself? In what ways are you drawn away from being 'fruitful' in the Christian life? What do you want to remember from these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has called us to share in his work of bearing fruit for eternal life. Ask that he would keep you humbly dependent on him in all things. Ask that he would encourage and sustain you to be fruitful as you draw near in dependence on him.

WEEK 11: JOHN 21:1-25

DAY 3: Come and eat

Read John 21:5-14

1. According to verses 5-7, who is responsible for this miraculous catch?
2. Who does Jesus say caught the fish in verse 10?
3. How ought this shape the way we see God at work in anything that we do?
4. In what areas are you most likely to claim credit for yourself? What opportunities do you have this week to give credit to God?

Prayer: Praise God as the creator who is able to work in and through all things supernaturally and “naturally” for his purposes. Confess your failure to acknowledge him as the giver of all things and for your self reliance or pride. Ask for his help to point away from yourself and to give all glory to him.

FEED MY LAMBS

DAY 4: Do you love me?

Read John 21:15-25

1. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him?
2. Read John 13:36-38 and John 18:17, 25-27. What parallels do you see between the questions Peter was asked on the night of Jesus' death, and what Jesus is asking him here?
3. What does this moment represent for Peter? What comfort would this be to him?
4. What comfort can we take from these verses (see, for instance, 1 John 1:8-9)?

Prayer: Give thanks that God is faithful to forgive according to his promises in Jesus. Confess to him where you have failed this week, and ask for his forgiveness. Give thanks for the assurance we can have in the finished work of Jesus to secure our forgiveness.

WEEK 11: JOHN 21:1-25

DAY 5: Feed my lambs

Read John 21:15-25

1. What three things does Jesus ask Peter to do after each question? List the three instructions below:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What do these instructions show us about:
 - a. The needs of God's people?
 - b. The work of the apostles?
3. Read Acts 20:20-32. Here Paul addresses a group of church leaders from the city of Ephesus. What insights do we get into the work of 'shepherding' God's people?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-15. What are the roles of apostles and pastors etc., and what is the role of God's people? What opportunities do you have to engage in that this week?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has forgiven you and called you to be part of his flock. Ask that you would have humility to learn from and listen to those leaders God has placed in our church. Pray that God would grant wisdom to those who shepherd our church, and that we would all play our part in 'feeding' one another. Ask that God would continue to raise up leaders to pastor his flock on the Coast and beyond.

FEED MY LAMBS

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

