

and the **Grace** of God

ev/church

FAMILY AND THE GRACE OF GOD

TERM 4	TITLE
Week 1	The family of grace
Week 2	Family in the last days
Week 3	Sex and marriage
Week 4	Raising the next generation
Week 5	Forgiveness in the Son
Week 6	Loving in the Son
Week 7	Discernment in the Son
Week 8	Children in the Son
Week 9	God's love in the Son
Week 10	Assurance in the Son

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 4 – 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.



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GIVING AT EV CHURCH

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More info on giving and account details: evchurch.info/giving

INTRODUCTION:

Family and the Grace of God

Central to our identity as followers of Jesus is that we are members of God's family. Our loving heavenly Father has united us to his Son by grace. We are now loved as his precious, adopted children, sharing in the love he has for his Son. All of this ought to lead us to recalibrate our view of God, ourselves, and of every human relationship that we are in, or hope to be in.

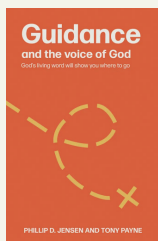
But human relationships are also huge in shaping the way we see ourselves and determining the contexts in which we live out our faith. God created human relationships. He has a lot to say about them! Often the demands and desires of family, work, friendships or other relationships fill our vision and can crowd God out. Also, our culture offers its own perspectives on the relative value of marriage, singleness, children and church community. How do we exist in all these various relationships with God and his purposes at the centre? How can obedience to God foster healthier, more fruitful families and relationships? How does all this fit with the pursuit of growing God's kingdom and reaching the lost?

This term we want to take a few weeks out to think about these very questions. As you do, we've put together some resources that will be available to help you think into various family or household situations you find yourself in.

Book Recommendations:

Guidance and the Voice of God by Philip Jensen

Discerning God's will in every stage and season.



The Best Sex for Life by Patricia Weerakoon

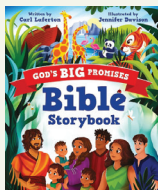
The what, why and how of satisfying, Biblical sex in every season of marriage.



FAMILY AND THE GRACE OF GOD

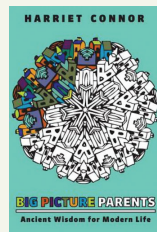
God's Big Promises Bible Storybook by Carl Laferton

The one unfolding story of God keeping his promises. Great for preschoolers.



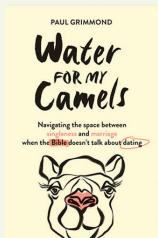
Big Picture Parents by Harriet Connor

Parenting as finite creatures with all our guilt, fears and mistakes with our eyes lifted to God's big picture.



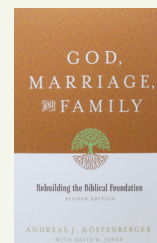
Water for my Camels by Paul Grimmond

Wisdom to think through relationships, dating and marriage.



God, Marriage and Family by Kostenberger

A thorough guide to the Bible's teaching on marriage and family.



A note on grace and care in our family series

As with any series in the Bible, God's Word will make us feel uncomfortable at different times this term as well as bring joy and encouragement. As soon as we focus on the topic of family, there are all sorts of challenges, griefs and sensitivities that arise around marriage, childbearing, singleness, intimacy and so on. Because of this, it's critical that we draw near to God in his Word, humbly seeking to be changed and comforted by it. We also want to be a people of love, compassion and gentleness. We want to commit all of our hurts and hopes to our gracious God and pursue his plans together.

So, we encourage you in this season to lean in and wrestle with God where things are hard; be mindful of those around you who you know will be impacted in particular ways; to help care for people as you're able; and reach out for support – either from your Growth Group Leader, Community Leader or a Pastor. If you're not sure where to start, hit the "Get Care" link on our website, evchurch.info.

WEEK 1: THE FAMILY OF GRACE

DAY 1: Children of God

Read Romans 8:12-17

1. What are all the ways that verses 14-17 describe the status of someone who is Christian?
2. How did our adoption come about (verse 15)? (See also Romans 5:1-2, 8:1.)
3. What effect ought having the Spirit have on us? How does that compare to not having the Spirit?
4. How does the work of the Spirit shape our understanding of our identity? What are the rival voices that you are prone to hear and listen to that tell you who and what you are or ought to be?

Prayer: Loving Father, thank you that you have adopted me into your family. I know I don't deserve this status that I have, but you have brought it about by your grace. Thank you that I am justified in Christ and adopted in Him by your Spirit. Help me not to live in fear, but in gratitude and confidence of who I am before you. Help me to honour you by walking in step with your Spirit.

DAY 2: A new status, new story

Read Romans 8:14-19

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7

1. What new status is given to those in Christ? How is this different to that of a slave?
2. Based on verse 17, what should the Christian expect of their future? Why is this fitting for those in Christ?
3. How does verse 18 expand the order of these things? What comes first? What is greater?
4. In what ways are you likely to share in Christ's sufferings as a member of his family? What makes enduring these things worth it?

Prayer: Give thanks for the new status we have in Christ. Ask that God would give you courage by his Spirit to face whatever suffering may come from being in Christ, to persevere in light of the hope of glory to come. Pray the same for brothers and sisters close by or across the world who you know are suffering for Christ.

WEEK 1: THE FAMILY OF GRACE

DAY 3: Pain and patience

Read Romans 8:18-25

1. How do these verses describe the experience of the children of God now and into the future?
2. How is this experience connected to the rest of creation in terms of its present and future?
3. In verse 24, what is it that we are looking forward to? How does this relate to the fact that we have already been adopted (verse 15)?
4. What are the three responses that these verses suggest are fitting in light of our present experience and future experience? (See verses 23-25.)

Prayer: Give thanks for the glorious hope that we have as children of God in Christ. Bring before him the things that are causing you to 'groan inwardly', ask that he enable you to 'eagerly await' our redemption and to 'wait patiently' in hope.

DAY 4: Sonship and discipline

Read Hebrews 12:4-11

We've seen this week that being in Christ gives us a new status and future as members of God's family. In this part of Hebrews, the author is addressing Jewish Christians who are under intense pressure to revert back to Judaism. He shows us a little more of what our identity as God's children means for our present experience.

1. How does the author of Hebrews see God at work in the difficult circumstances of his readers?
2. What is 'encouraging' about verses 5-6?
3. In light of verses 5-8, how should you think about your own suffering? How should you feel about not suffering?
4. What is the goal of God's discipline (verse 11)? How can you work with God to pursue this goal when you experience his discipline? (If you are a parent, how can you lovingly pursue this goal in your parenting?)

Prayer: Give thanks that God cares enough about us to use things in our life to shape us for peace and righteousness. Ask that he would give you a humble heart to receive hardship as his loving training of our character and that he would grow righteousness and peace in us. Ask that God would give great wisdom to the parents in our church that they might be like him in lovingly shaping their children, and for those being parented that they would have humility and wisdom to learn from their parents.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: FAMILY IN THE LAST DAYS

DAY 1: Bad, better, good

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul addresses a series of different life situations and relationships that exist among God's people, particularly in the city of Corinth. He brings a radical, eternal perspective to bear on these relationships which we can apply to the various situations we find ourselves in today.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

1. In verses 1-2, what situation or problem in Corinth does Paul seem to be responding to? What concern does he prioritise?
2. The category of sexual immorality barely exists in our present culture. What are some of the ways your life could reflect giving priority to this concern?
3. Re-read verses 3-4. Bearing in mind that the culture of the time was very much male-centred when it came to sexuality, what is radical about these verses? How might these two verses be misapplied to serve the selfishness of one spouse rather than the mutual concern and consideration on view?
4. In verses 5-9, what seems to be Paul's main concern? What is the 'bad' he wants to avoid, what is 'better' than the bad, what is the 'good' he commends? How does this fit with our culture today?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the created good of sexual intimacy and the radical way the Bible guards against selfishness. Ask that God would help us as individuals and as a church to have a healthy value of singleness, marriage and self control.

WEEK 2: FAMILY IN THE LAST DAYS

DAY 3: Precious servants

Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

1. What phrase do you notice Paul repeating here? What circumstances or questions might this be addressing?
2. What theological insights does Paul give as he fleshes out this principle (e.g. verses 19, 22-23)?
3. Verse 19 exposes a tendency to focus on changing externals rather than obeying God which 'is what counts'. How might you be prone to this? What commandments might you be avoiding keeping?
4. How might verses 22-23 both dignify and humble us? In what ways might you need to be humbled by these verses? In what ways are they an encouragement?

Prayer: Give thanks that we can honour God in all circumstances that we live in. Praise him for the gospel in which he purchased us and set us free to be his servants. Ask him to help us to live as obedient servants in all situations.

DAY 4: The time is short

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-31

In this passage, Paul addresses the topic of "virgins" (that is, in this case, those who are not yet married but are betrothed to be married). It's worth being aware that this is different to our contemporary practice of engagement. Betrothals would largely have been arranged in advance by the family of those involved.

1. What instruction does Paul give to those who are betrothed? What reasons does he give for this instruction?

2. What kind of "troubles" might the married person have that the unmarried person may not?

3. Re-read verses 29-31. What future event shapes the way we live in present relationships? In what way does it shape the way we live?

4. Given that "the time is short", what might it mean...
 - a. For the married to live as though they weren't married? (See also verse 32-33.)

 - b. For those who buy as though things didn't belong to them?

 - c. For those using things to not be engrossed in them?

Prayer: Ask that God would give us a deep sense of urgency in light of eternity. Ask for his help to not be engrossed in things of this age, but to see all things and all relationships in light of the age to come.

WEEK 2: FAMILY IN THE LAST DAYS

DAY 5: Undivided devotion

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

1. From yesterday's passage, what perspective is driving Paul's concerns here (see verse 29, 31)? What is his goal here (verse 35)?
2. What does Paul say is the advantage of singleness? What is hard about marriage? How might this differ from our culture's view of the pro's and con's of marriage and singleness?
3. In what ways are you concerned for the Lord's affairs and being devoted to the Lord at the moment? In what ways are you concerned about worldly affairs?
4. With these concerns in mind, if you're single, how could you encourage those you know who are married in this regard? If you're married, how could you encourage those who are single?

Prayer: Give thanks for the blessing of both marriage and singleness. Ask God to grant self control to both the single and married people in our midst. Ask that we would together be concerned about the Lord's affairs and be devoted to him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

DAY 2: Alone?

Read Genesis 2:15-23

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5

1. What new insight or colour does this account give to the way men and women were formed by God?
2. How do these insights impact our understanding of the shape and purpose of marriage?
3. In light of Genesis 1:28 and 2:15, what are all the ways it might not be good “for the man to be alone”?
4. We’ll think more about how the fall into sin and the plan of salvation change what it means to be fruitful in marriage later. But for now, is marriage more than just a cure for loneliness?
 - a. What other things has God given for companionship and community?
 - b. How could you pursue both companionship and partnership in God’s work in your various relationships?

Prayer: Give thanks for the order that God has created in marriage. Ask that marriages in our church would be a place of companionship as well as fruitful partnership for God’s plans. Ask that our church would be a rich community of friendship and gospel partnership. Pray for those who are not married that they would have a deep sense of family in our church.

WEEK 3: SEX AND MARRIAGE

DAY 3: One flesh

Read Genesis 2:21-25

1. Why do you think Adam's response to first seeing Eve is so profound (see verse 20)?
2. In verse 24, what two things happen when a marriage takes place? What are some of the ways in which this differs from our culture's view of sex and relationships?
3. What can be some of the challenges in these things happening in a marriage? What are some of the challenges of living as a faithful single person in our culture?
4. What does verse 24 add to a biblical vision of marriage and intimacy? If you are married, how can you cultivate this picture of openness and safety in your own marriage?

Prayer: Ask that God would protect the marriages in our church. Ask that they be places of openness and intimacy. Ask that he gives grace and wisdom to live and grow through the brokenness of marriage since the fall, for his glory. Pray for those who are single or no longer married. Ask that God would provide rich companionship and fellowship in other ways in our church family.

DAY 4: Fear, accusation and pain

Read Genesis 3:6-13, and 3:16-17

1. What significant event has just taken place (see 3:1-5)?
2. In 3:7-12, what do you notice about how the man and woman see themselves, and each other? How does this compare with 2:24-25?
3. In verse 16, what further changes are brought about by God's judgement of Adam and Eve's sin? How does this impact their companionship, their fruitfulness and their partnership under God? (Again, compare with 1:28, 2:15, 2:25.)
4. Where have you seen these dynamics playing out in your own marriage (if you are married), or in the marriages around you? What pains and griefs do you want to bring to your Heavenly Father?

Prayer: Give thanks for the created good of marriage and for God's mercy to sinners in Jesus. Ask for God's kindness to bring healing and change in marriages where there is pain. Ask for wisdom and humility to know your own part in this. Give thanks that in Christ there is no longer shame, or fear of condemnation.

WEEK 3: SEX AND MARRIAGE

DAY 5: A profound mystery

Ephesians 5:21-33

In this passage, Paul draws connections between marriage and Jesus' relationship with the church. Hence, we can learn things about Jesus, the church and marriage from this passage.

1. In what way is a wife to be like the church? In what ways might she be different?
2. How is Christ a better "husband" than Adam was (compare verses 25-27 with Genesis 3:12)?
3. In what ways is a husband to be like Jesus? In what ways might he be different?
4. What is being said in verses 29-33 about the purpose and meaning of marriage? Which is the greater, truer reality: human marriage, or Christ's marriage to the church?
5. If you are not married, how does this change the way you think about the purpose of marriage and the kind of person you would want to marry? If you are married, how might you live in your marriage with this in mind?

Prayer: Give thanks for the incredible selfless love of Christ to us, his bride. Ask that, having been washed clean, we might continue to put sin to death. Ask that we would love as he has loved us.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

DAY 1: Multiply 2.0

Read Genesis 1:27-28, Matthew 28:18-19

1. What is being commanded in these verses?
2. Where do these passages fit in the unfolding story of God's work in the world? What connections can you see between these two commands?
3. How does making babies compare with making baby Christians? Is one more important than the other? How might they work together? How might they come into conflict?
4. How can you partner in the work of making disciples on the Coast? How can you partner in the work of discipling children on the Coast?

Prayer: Pray that God would continue to grow his kingdom, both by procreation and evangelism! Ask that those who are able to have children would be open to the bearing of children, and that we would all play our part in the mission of making disciples on the Coast and beyond.

DAY 2: Make an impression

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

This passage captures some of Moses' final words to the Israelites, just before they enter the promised land. He's referring back to the laws God gave in Exodus and applying them to the new context of making their home in the land.

1. For what reason(s) did God give his commands to Israel?
2. What commandment lies at the "heart" of these commands?
3. How might this impact the way we teach the next generation? How could we "impress" this command in particular on them?
4. What might be the contemporary equivalents of verses 7-9? How might this find expression in your household (whether or not it contains children)?

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John;
2 John; 3 John

Prayer: Ask that God would grow in us a deep love of him that permeates our whole lives. Ask that he might especially be doing that in our young people. Lift up our kids and youth, and the various teams that serve them.

WEEK 4: RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

DAY 3: Tell the story

Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25

For some context on these verses, see Day 2 on the previous page.

1. What are the things Moses instructs Israelite parents to tell their children?
2. What does this reveal about God's character? How might it motivate them to love God and obey his commands?
3. What is different about our context in salvation history as Christians (rather than Israelites)?
 - a. What is the story we would tell in answer to a question like this?
 - b. What is similar/different about the past salvation?
 - c. What is similar/different about the future hope or promise?
 - d. How are Christians "righteous"? (See Romans 3:21-23.)
4. With this in mind, how might you answer the following questions from a child (or anyone!)?
 - a. "Do I have to go to church?"
 - b. "Why do we have to read the Bible together?"
 - c. "Why does God care what I do?"

Prayer: Praise God for his acts of salvation in history, especially his salvation in sending Jesus. Praise him for his good words that bring life and goodness. Ask for humble hearts to obey his words as his people, and for wisdom to help others trust and obey his words.

DAY 4: Honour and exasperation

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

1. What is asked of children here?
2. How are honour and obedience different? What might they look like in different stages of a parent-child relationship (e.g. young child, adolescent child, adult child)?
3. Adult family relationships can be complex. As an adult, how can you show honour to your parents at the moment?
4. What is asked of parents?
5. If you are a parent, in what ways might you be prone to cause exasperation (or "*stir up anger*" – ESV) in your children? What can you be doing to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the way he has created family. Bring before your Father in Heaven all your hurts and frustrations in your various family relationships. Ask for his grace and wisdom to discern what is godly and appropriate. Ask for the humility, strength and patience to do it.

WEEK 4: RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION

DAY 5: "Do not hinder them"

Read Mark 10:13-16

1. What kind of thinking would lead the disciples to act the way they did? How does Jesus' response correct this?
2. How could a parent hinder a child from coming to Jesus? How could a church hinder a child from coming to Jesus?
3. What can you be doing to help children come to Jesus?
4. In what way can we learn from the faith of children? (See verse 15.)

Prayer: Give thanks for the children in our church community. Ask that God would protect them from all evil and bring them into his heavenly kingdom. Ask that we could each have the humility and dependence of children before our Father in Heaven.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

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). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Week 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Week 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Week 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Week 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Week 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Week 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6
- Week 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Week 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Week 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Week 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

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

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

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|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 5 Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8
- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

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

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

1 JOHN: LIFE IN THE SON

TERM 4	TITLE
Week 1	The family of grace
Week 2	Family in the last days
Week 3	Sex and marriage
Week 4	Raising the next generation
Week 5	Forgiveness in the Son
Week 6	Loving in the Son
Week 7	Discernment in the Son
Week 8	Children in the Son
Week 9	God's love in the Son
Week 10	Assurance in the Son

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 4 – 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.



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INTRODUCTION: 1 JOHN

Are you in the Son? How do you know if you are saved for eternity? How do you know if the things you've been taught and believed about Jesus are true? Does your life look like the life of someone who is living in the Son?

All kinds of doubts and questions arise in the mind of the Christian or would-be Christian. All kinds of lies exist about Jesus – who he is and what it should look like to follow him. The apostle John (whom you might remember from such other books in the Bible as “The Gospel According to John” – aka “John” – or “The Revelation of John” – aka “Revelation” – that guy), wrote this letter to Christians who were wrestling with questions like these.

John says he wrote this letter (known as “1 John”) “to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (5:13). Compare this to his gospel, which, he said, was written “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). So, in a nutshell, his gospel was written to bring about assurance in those who have faith.

As with John’s gospel, John’s letters are written a little differently to those of the other apostles. His style beautifully complements the other epistles to paint the same picture with a slightly different medium. Unlike Paul’s letters, which are addressed to specific churches or individuals, John’s first letter has no greeting or farewell. It’s likely that it functioned as a circular letter or pamphlet that was distributed to a number of churches and communities who were grappling with similar issues.

Don’t be led astray

Central to these issues, it seems, is the influence of various travelling teachers claiming to have insights into the Christian faith that were different to the message of the apostles. Hence, John will warn his readers of people attempting to lead them astray (2:26, 3:7), of those who claim to have knowledge or fellowship with God, but do not (1:6, 2:4, 3:6), and of those whose life of sin, hate, and darkness betrays the falsehood of their message (2:5, 2:9, 3:6, 3:10, 4:19).

LIFE IN THE SON

Among other things, these teachers are getting Jesus wrong - either by denying the genuine humanity of Christ, or his true divinity, or possibly both (see 2:22, 4:2). With their distorted message, comes a life of sin and falsehood. Therefore, John urges his readers towards discernment, to weigh the claims of others, but as they do, to be taking stock of their own life.

Light and love

Again, unlike Paul's epistles, the structure of 1 John is not a linear progression of thought, rather it is more like a song, which has some central themes or motifs that recur and are developed as new elements are folded in. It really rewards reading over again and again to see the parts in light of the whole. Central to these motifs are the ideas of light and love. God is light (1:5) and God is love (4:8). Those who claim to be in fellowship with him are to live in light and love as Jesus did.

Join us in praying that, as we dig into this beautiful little letter, we'd be encouraged by the assurance we can have in Christ; grow in discernment in the truth; and be transformed to live lives of radical light and love in him.

WEEK 5: FORGIVENESS IN THE SON

DAY 1: First-hand

Read 1 John 1:1-4

1. Re-read verses 1 and 2. What are these different phrases and sentences doing? How do they work together?
2. Why do you think John emphasises his first-hand sensory experiences? (See also 2:26, 4:1-2, 4:6.)
3. Why does it matter that Jesus physically came in a touchable, fleshy, human body? (See 2:2, 4:2, 4:10, and Hebrews 2:14-17.)
4. What encouragement does it give you to know that John's accounts come from eyewitness testimony of Jesus (see also Luke 1:1-3)?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has preserved the eyewitness testimony of the apostles so that we can have confidence in the message about Jesus. Give thanks that the Word became flesh, so that he could atone for our sin. Ask that God would give us confidence and joy in these truths.

DAY 2: Fellowship in the Son

Read 1 John 1:1-4

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5

1. In verses 3-4, what does John say are his purposes in proclaiming this life?
2. What is the benefit of having fellowship with the apostles (verse 3b)? (See verses 5-7 for more on what John means by this fellowship.)
3. How is this idea (fellowship with God) different to some views of Christianity or other religions? (Again, see verses 5-7.)
4. Why might sharing this news lead to joy? If the thought of others knowing Jesus doesn't give you joy, what might that suggest about what you value?

Prayer: Give thanks that through the apostles we can have fellowship with the Father and the Son. Ask that he would give us joy in our fellowship with him, ask that we together would know the joy of seeing many enjoy that same fellowship.

WEEK 5: FORGIVENESS IN THE SON

DAY 3: The eternal life

Read 1 John 1:1-7

1. In verses 1-2, who is the one John is writing about? How is he described, and what title is he given?
2. Turn to John's gospel and read 1:1-5 and 1:14. What do you notice? What is similar and what is different?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus is truly God? (See also verses 2:1-2, 2:22-25.)
4. Why do we need a mediator? (See verses 5-7.)

Prayer: Honour God as the one who is light. Give thanks that the eternal Son appeared in the flesh to bear our sin so that we might have an advocate to mediate for us and purify us.

DAY 4: Walking in the light

Read 1 John 1:5-2:2

1. What are the two lies that appear in this passage?
2. How does sin affect Christian fellowship (verses 5-7)?
3. How does claiming to have not sinned impact our relationship with God?
4. In these verses, what encouragement is there for those who have sinned?
What encouragement is there to not sin?

Prayer: Ask that God would give us the ability to be honest with ourselves and with him about our sin. Ask that he would expose our sin and prick our conscience of the ways we need to seek his forgiveness and change. Confess these things to him. Give thanks for the assurance we can have of this forgiveness through the atoning work of Jesus.

WEEK 5: FORGIVENESS IN THE SON

DAY 5: An atoning sacrifice

Read 1 John 1:7-2:2

1. List the different ways that the person or work of Jesus are described here.
2. What makes it both “faithful” and “just” of God to forgive us when we confess our sin while trusting in Jesus?
3. How comprehensive is the forgiveness on offer in Jesus? Is there anything that is not covered in the work of Jesus?
4. Are there things that you carry that you find hard to believe or act as though God has forgiven? Are there things you aren’t willing to admit that you have done such that, in effect, you “make God out to be a liar?”

Prayer: Bring these things before God. Thank him for the purifying, atoning work of the cross of Jesus, for his faithfulness and justice in providing forgiveness in Christ. Ask him to cleanse your conscience of things that you have repented of and ask him to expose in your conscience things you need to repent of.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: LOVING IN THE SON

DAY 1: "I know him"

Read 1 John 2:3-11

1. How do we know that we have come to "know" God?
2. How do you weigh the claims of someone else who says they know or love God?
3. What things in verse 5 and 6 show us that this is more than just legalistic rule keeping?
4. How can anyone be confident they know and love God if this is the standard? How does 1:8-2:2 help with this?

Prayer: Give thanks for the perfect love shown in the life of Jesus. Give thanks that he is both our model of love and the one who purifies us in our failure. Ask God that he would grow in us a deep love of him and a deep desire to obey his commands of love.

DAY 2: A “new” commandment?

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10

Read 1 John 2:3-11

1. John says this command is not a new one. The command to “love your neighbour as yourself” was given as far back as Leviticus (Leviticus 19:18). But in John’s gospel, Jesus calls the command to love one another “a new commandment”. Turn to John 13 and read 13:31-34. In verse 34, what is new about this commandment? (See also John 15:12-13.)
2. In John 13:31-34, what are the two impacts of loving in the way Jesus loves?
3. Who in your Christian community do you find it hard to love? What makes it hard? What do they bring, and what do you bring to this? What’s something you could do to show love to this person?

Prayer: Give thanks for the love of God revealed in the sacrificial death of Jesus. Ask that he shape our hearts to want to love others the way he has loved us. Bring before God the hurts, frustrations, resentments, etc. that keep you from loving others. Ask God to forgive you where you need to be forgiven, ask that he would help you forgive where you need to forgive.

WEEK 6: LOVING IN THE SON

DAY 3: True light

Read 1 John 2:7-11

1. In what sense might the 'true light' already be shining?
2. Who is walking in the light? Who is walking in the darkness?
3. How does darkness impact us? What might this look like?
4. Who are you prone to "hate" or find hard to love at the moment? What might that be exposing in you? What might you not be seeing?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you 'see' clearly, your own need for his love and mercy in Jesus, the example of his love in the sacrificial death of Jesus, and the amount that you've been forgiven in Christ. Ask that he would give you the strength, humility and desire to love as he has loved us.

DAY 4: You know the Father

Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. Who are the different groups that John addresses? How many of these might be overlapping? (See also 2:1.)
2. List the five different "because..." statements below:
 - a. Verse 12
 - b. Verse 13a
 - c. Verse 13b
 - d. Verse 14a
 - e. Verse 14b
3. After the confronting truths and warnings of 2:9-11, what is comforting about these verses?
4. Why might John have paired these different "because" statements with the different groups of people?
4. Each of these statements are true about all people who are in Christ. Which statement most resonates with you at the moment? How does it encourage you today?

Prayer: Give thanks for the gospel of Jesus which brings us forgiveness of sin, and reconciliation with God as Father, knowledge of the eternal one, and victory over evil! Ask that he would help you live in light of these truths today.

WEEK 6: LOVING IN THE SON

DAY 5: A multifaceted jewel

Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. Write out the five different "because..." statements from today's verses.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
2. What do these statements have in common? What is different about them?
3. Each of these statements draws out a different 'facet' of the gospel or 'lens' to consider the work of Jesus. Each of these statements is true about the gospel in general, but John seems to see these different lenses relating or connecting with different people.
 - a. Can you think of a person in your life who is Christian who might be encouraged by one of these "because" statements in particular today?
 - b. Can you think of a person who is not Christian who might resonate with one of these statements more than another? How might you communicate it to them?

Prayer: Give thanks for the manifold, multifaceted beauty of the gospel. Ask that God would help us grow in our ability to understand and articulate the gospel in different ways. Ask that he would give us the words and opportunities to speak gospel truths this week. Ask that many on the Coast may hear, understand and believe the gospel.

PRAYER NOTES AND POINTS

WEEK 7: DISCERNMENT IN THE SON

DAY 1: "Antichrist" is coming

Read 1 John 2:18-23

1. How do the following verses help us understand what and who "antichrist"* is?
 - a. 2:18
 - b. 2:22
 - c. 4:3
 - d. 2 John 7
2. In the passages above, does the title "antichrist" refer to one person or many people? Or something else?
3. Many people in history have attempted to identify someone in their time as "the" antichrist. What might be unhelpful about this?
4. How do these verses shape our expectation of the Christian life? What should we be alert to? How should we respond?

Prayer: Give thanks that God sent his Son in the flesh and that through him we have access to the Father. Ask that he would protect his church from opposition and false teaching.

*Some notes on "Antichrist"

- The article (i.e. the word, "the") is most likely not present here in the original language. Hence, "antichrist is coming" rather than "the Anticrist is coming" is how the ESV, CSB NRSV, NASB translations read here.
- The term "antichrist" is not used by other New Testament authors, only John and only in his letters (1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3, and 2 John 7).
- The prefix "anti" can either mean "against" or "instead of". This has led some contemporary commentators to suggest that the antichrist is a 'false Christ', or an 'alternative' Christ, rather than a figure who opposes Christ directly. However, in John, the concept is elaborated on in terms of denying that Christ came in the flesh.

DAY 2: The last hour

Read 1 John 2:18-23

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21

1. How does John know it is “the last hour”?

2. The phrase, “last hour” is unique to John. However, the phrase “the last days” is more common in the New Testament. In the following verses, what time period is meant by “the last days”?
 - a. Hebrews 1:1-3

 - b. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

 - c. 2 Peter 3:3-7

3. Continue in 2 Peter 3 and read verses 8-11. How do these verses help us understand what John might mean by “the last hour”?

4. How do these verses move us to see:
 - a. The age we live in?

 - b. Our life on earth?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus is returning soon. Ask that God would sustain our faith until he comes. Pray that he would sustain and protect his church whether it be another year or another thousand years. Ask that he give us a sense of urgency so that we can trust Jesus and make him known with zeal.

WEEK 7: DISCERNMENT IN THE SON

DAY 3: Remaining

Read 1 John 2:18-29

1. In verses 19-22, how does John want his readers to think about:
 - a. Themselves?

 - b. Those who have left their churches?

2. When John speaks of belonging to "us", what do you think he means? How does 1:3 help with this? Why is belonging to John's community important?

3. What might it look like today to be in fellowship with John and his Christian community (e.g. John 17:20)? What might be different about the way we speak of people coming and going from churches in our time to the way John spoke

Prayer: Give thanks that we can have fellowship with the Father and the Son by believing in the message of the Apostles. Give thanks for the confidence we can have when we are trusting in the Jesus of the Bible. Ask that God would protect his church from false teaching and that we would know his Word well to be able to guard against distortions of the truth.

about these people in his time?

DAY 4: Having the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Read 1 John 20-29

1. What do you think is being spoken about when John speaks of them having or receiving an anointing? What is the impact of this “anointing”?
2. What familiar ideas do you see in the following verses:
 - a. John 14:17
 - b. John 15:26
 - c. John 16:13-14
3. Who is being anointed with what/who in these verses?
 - a. Luke 4:18
 - b. Acts 4:27, 10:8
4. How do you see the three persons of the Trinity working together

Prayer: Give thanks that God has sent his Spirit, who makes known the truth about Jesus. Give thanks for the words of the Apostles that the Spirit has preserved for us in scripture and through them we can know Christ and be in fellowship with the Triune God.

WEEK 7: DISCERNMENT IN THE SON

in verses 20-23? What assurance can we gain from this? (See also John 16:13-15.)

DAY 5: Remain

Read 1 John 2:24-29

1. How do we remain in the Father and in the Son?
2. What is the end result of continuing “in him” (verse 28)?
3. What kind of lives do those who are in him live (verse 29)?
4. How can you ensure his Word remains in you? What is an area of righteousness you can grow in? (You may want to consider these passages if you need some inspiration: 1 John 2:9-10, Matthew 5:3-12, Galatians 5:13-18.) What are some examples of opportunities to practise/grow in this week?

Prayer: Give thanks for the assurance we can have that we can be confident and unashamed before God in Christ. Ask him to grow us in righteousness as he is righteous. To prick our conscience where we need to be, and to help us put into practice what we have considered.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: CHILDREN IN THE SON

DAY 1: What great love!

Read 1 John 3:1-3

1. What has God done to lavish his love on us?
2. Flip over to John's gospel, 1:12-13. How did we come to be in God's family?
3. Back in 1 John 3:1-2, what are we now? What will we be in the future? How will this happen?
4. What are we to do now in light of this future?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the incredible privilege of being called his beloved children. Ask that he would fill our hearts with the hope of being glorified with Jesus and that we would purify ourselves in him in the meantime.

DAY 2: Sin, holiness and the work of Satan

Read 1 John 3:2-10

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Haggai 1-2; John 1-12

1. What reasons does John give to not continue sinning?
2. In light of the above, in what way might John's readers be getting led astray?
3. Re-read verse 8. When we sin, how is this working for and against:
 - a. Satan?
 - b. Jesus?
4. In the struggle against sin, what encouragement is there in verses 2 and 5?
5. What sin do you feel convicted to bring before the Father today?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you sent your Son to take away sin and destroy the work of the evil one. Thank you that in Jesus our sin is removed. Help us to no longer live in line with Satan, but by the power of the Spirit put sin to death in obedience to your Son. Thank you for the hope of the day when we are transformed to be like your Son.

WEEK 8: CHILDREN IN THE SON

DAY 3: Cain and the murder of the righteous

Read 1 John 3:11-15

1. What does love (3:11) have to do with sin and the devil (3:8-10)? (Also, see 2:7-9.)
2. Why is Cain an appropriate example for John's readers at this point?
 - a. What's the connection to verse 11?
 - b. What's the connection made in verse 12-13?
3. Why should we not be surprised when the world hates us? (See verses 12-13.)
4. What test is there here to have confidence that we have life in the Son? How do you feel you go in this test?

Note: Some of us will likely overestimate our love of others: "if murder is the test for hatred, then I pass!" This can lead to false assurance. Others will likely underestimate our love: "I don't love people like Jesus!" This can lead to unnecessary doubt or insecurity. Ask God to give you an honest insight into your heart and life. More on this as the week unfolds.

Prayer: Give thanks for God's love in Christ, for his character as the God who prizes love above all else! Ask that he would help you to love as Christ has loved. Ask that he rightly convicts and encourages you in your love for others as the one who knows your heart.

WEEK 8: CHILDREN IN THE SON

DAY 5: Confidence before God

Read 1 John 3:18-24

1. How do we know that we are in the truth?

2. What does John say is the appropriate response for the Christian...
 - a. ...whose conscience (heart) condemns them (verse 20)?

 - b. ...whose conscience (heart) does not condemn them (verse 21)?

3. In verse 20, what does it mean that God is greater than our hearts? (See also Romans 5:1, 8:1 and 1 Corinthians 4:3-4.)

4. Does your conscience tend to condemn you unnecessarily? Or, does your conscience tend to be slow to notice sin? What conversation do you need to have with your conscience? How does this passage help you “set your heart at rest”?

Prayer: Give thanks that, although God’s knowledge of us is deeper than our own, his love is also greater than our own, and the blood of Jesus “cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Ask God to give you a right conscience before him so you can have confidence and peace in Christ.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: GOD'S LOVE IN THE SON

DAY 1: The Spirit of Truth

Read 1 John 4:1-6

1. Why is it necessary to "test the spirits" (verse 1)?
2. If it is false teaching that gives rise to the need for "testing the spirits", how is John expecting his readers will encounter these spirits?
3. What test does John provide to be able to discern between "the spirit of falsehood" and "The Spirit of Truth" (see verses 2-3 and 6.) (For more on 'the antichrist' see Week 7, Day 1.)
4. "We are from God". Who is the "we" here, and why should we listen to them (see 1:1-3)?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has given his Spirit of Truth, and that we have the word of the Apostles so that we can know and receive the truth about Jesus. Help us to know the truth and be able to discern it from falsehood.

DAY 2: Overcoming the spirits

Read 1 John 4:1-6

1. Who is the "them" that have been overcome (verses 1-4)?
2. Why, or how is it that we have "overcome" (verse 4)?
3. In 5:4-5, who does John say is the one who "overcomes", and how do they overcome?
4. How do these verses shape our understanding of spiritual warfare? How do we prepare and stand up in spiritual warfare according to these verses? (See also Matthew 7:15-19, and Ephesians 6:13-19.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God is more powerful than the evil one, that he has sent his Son to achieve victory over evil, and that his Spirit lives in us. Ask that he would help us to stand firm and persevere in the truth, trusting in Jesus' victory.

WEEK 9: GOD'S LOVE IN THE SON

DAY 3: What is love?

Read 1 John 4:7-15

1. How does the world define love?
2. How does John define love here? What characterises the kind of love God showed in Jesus? (See especially verses 9, 10 and 14.)
3. What does it mean that God's love is "made complete in us"? Is God's love lacking in some way?
4. What ways can you love in this costly, selfless, eternally-minded way this week?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's incredible love in sending Jesus. Give thanks that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sin and that by faith in his blood we can have life and be saved. Ask that God would give us desire, joy and wisdom to love as he has loved us.

WEEK 9: GOD'S LOVE IN THE SON

DAY 5: The one truth

Read 1 John 5:1-5

1. Who is born of God?
2. If someone claims to love and know God but doesn't believe in Jesus, can they have any confidence before God?
3. What motivation do we have for obeying God's commands?
4. Should someone who seeks to obey the laws of the Bible but doesn't know and love God or trust in Jesus have any confidence before God?
5. What is your confidence before God in?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has given us a clear and simple command: trust in Jesus, love God, and love people. Ask that we would trust in Jesus alone for salvation, and rely on his love and not on our own. Ask that many on the Coast who don't know Jesus would be saved.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: ASSURANCE IN THE SON

DAY 1: The water and the blood

Read 1 John 5:5-12

1. What might John mean by Jesus coming “by water and blood”? List all the possibilities that come to mind:

2. What wrong view seems to be corrected by John in the following verses?
 - a. 5:6

 - b. 5:4

 - c. 4:2

 - d. 2:22-23

3. How might coming “by water and blood” be a response to these concerns?

4. What is the significance of water or blood in these passages?
 - a. 1 John 1:7

 - b. John 1:29-34

Prayer: Give thanks that God the Son came in human flesh, as made evident at his baptism and his death. Give thanks that because of this we can have assurance that our sin has been paid for and we are reconciled to God.

DAY 2: These three testify

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

Read 1 John 5:5-12

1. What/who does verse 6b add to the group of witnesses John is identifying? How is the spirit a different witness to “the water and the blood”?
2. What is the Spirit doing in these verses?
 - a. 1 John 2:20-22
 - b. 1 John 2:24-27
 - c. 1 John 3:24
 - d. 1 John 4:13See also:
 - i. John 15:26
 - ii. John 16:13
 - iii. Romans 8:16
3. What does it look like to listen to God’s testimony (5:9-11)? (See also 1 John 4:6.)
4. What would it look like for you to continue to listen to, and accept God’s testimony at the moment?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has sent his Spirit who affirms to us that Jesus is God’s glorious Son and that we are his loved children. Ask that God would help us to listen to these affirmations from the Spirit and to keep growing in them by listening to the words of the Apostles. Ask that our church family would be shaped by the testimony of God in his Word and Spirit.

WEEK 10: ASSURANCE IN THE SON

DAY 3: You have life!

Read 1 John: 5:10-15

1. If someone doesn't believe the message about Jesus, what are they saying about God? How?
2. How do we gain life?
3. Why does John say he has written this letter?
4. 'I believe in Jesus and try to follow him, I hope that's enough to get me into heaven, but who can be sure?' How would you respond to this statement from these verses, and from 1 John as a whole?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he has given us eternal life in his Son. Ask that he would give us a soft heart to always believe the testimony of the Apostles, and that he would bring many to faith and life in his Son.

DAY 4: You have what you ask for

Read 1 John 5:12-15

1. What does believing that Jesus is the Son of God lead to? (See verse 12-13.)

2. What other confidence does this bring (verse 14)? What does this mean to you personally?

3. Based on verses 14-15, which prayers can we be confident God will hear and grant?

4. How should this shape the way we pray? What do the following verses say about God's will?
 - a. Ephesians 1:9-10

 - b. Romans 12:2

 - c. Romans 8:28-29

 - d. 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Prayer: Give thanks for the confidence we can have before God, that he cares for us as his children, hears us and answers when we pray according to his will. Ask that he would give us a growing understanding of his plans and character so that we can live and pray in accordance with his will.

WEEK 10: ASSURANCE IN THE SON


DAY 5: Sin that leads to death

Read 1 John 5:16-21

1. What does John say we should do for those who are sinning? What will this lead to?
2. John describes two kinds of people and two kinds of sin. What assurance and comfort is there in the description, “sin that doesn’t lead to death”? How do the following passages help flesh out what “sin that doesn’t lead to death” is?
 - a. 1 John 1:7-2:2
 - b. 1 John 5:17-18
3. How do the following passages help us understand what the “sin that leads to death” could be?
 - a. 1 John 5:10b
 - b. Mark 3:29-30
4. How much time do you spend praying for Christian brothers and sisters? Take some time to think through:
 - a. Who could you be praying for in the battle against sin?
 - b. How can you put things in place to be intentional with prayers for Christian brothers and sisters?

Prayer: Give thanks for God’s mercy, that not all sin leads to death because of Christ! Give thanks for the assurance that we can have in him we are walking in repentance and faith. Ask for God’s help to put sin to death in your life. Bring to God your brothers and sisters who you know need help in this too.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



Life
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