



**GROW**

more to  
**life**  
WITH JESUS



# STUDY OUTLINE

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- Study 1      Part of God's Family - Hebrews 10:19-25
- Study 2      Telling Others About Christ - 1 Peter 3:13-17
- Study 3      Listening to How God Speaks - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Study 4      Living by Faith - Matthew 6:25-34
- Study 5      Growing in Generosity - 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- Study 6      Serving in the Family -John 13 and Romans 12:1-8

# STUDY 1 PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

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## HEBREWS 10:19-25

**It is commonly said by Australians: “my religion is a highly private matter!” The Bible however has a different viewpoint. It says that if we are to relate properly with God, it will involve us in a whole community of other believers. In short, private Christianity is not God’s kind of Christianity!**

We are going to look at Hebrews 10:19-25. But it will be helpful to know two pieces of background information before we start.

In the Old Testament, God said that people could sacrifice and approach him at the Temple in Jerusalem. But a huge thick curtain separated Him from the people and only the High Priest could go behind the curtain into the Most Holy Place once a year. On the very moment Jesus died on the cross the curtain was torn in two from top to bottom (see Mark 15:38) Before Jesus, people needed a priest to help them have access to God. Now, Jesus is our Great High Priest. Jesus is the only human priest we need.

### Read Hebrews 10:19-25

*<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

1. Circle the plural words that show communal language.
2. What do we, brothers and sisters in Christ, have confidence to do?
3. Why can we have this confidence? (verse 19-21)

**The writer now tells us that there are 3 implications flowing from what we have! He tells us to “Let us...”**

4. Verse 22 “Let us draw near to God”. What do we need to be like to draw near to God?
5. Verse 23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we have”. How is that possible?
6. Verse 24 “Let us consider how to spur one another on..”.
  - a. What do we spur each other on to do?
  - b. What else do we do for each other (v25)?
  - c. What are we not to give up?

# STUDY 1 PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

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## HEBREWS 10:19-25

7. It is often said that Christians are like coals in a fire, or Emperor penguins in Antarctica.

"The Day" in verse 25 is the day Jesus returns to wind up history and take those who have put their faith in him to live with God in the new creation. See **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**. We do not know when that will be, so we keep on encouraging one another.

Can you see why?

8. Are the reasons for gathering together mostly about us or mostly about others or both?
9. How have others spurred you on to love and good deeds, and encouraged you? What are some ways in which you can do that for others?
10. What more do these verses tell us about God's people gathering together?
  - a. Romans 12:4,5
  - b. Acts 2:42-47

**Titus 2:13-14** says “...we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” Jesus died to redeem us and make us God’s people.

11. What can we do in our own lives to show that meeting with Gods people is important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?

**Being a Christian means actively participating in God’s family.**

# STUDY 2 TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

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## 1 PETER 3:13-17

It has been said that when a Christian presents the good news about Jesus to those who don't know it, he or she is preaching treason in an enemy kingdom. We need courage and boldness if people are to hear but the privilege is great and the results assured!

*"The gospel does not fall from the clouds like rain, by accident, but is brought by the hands of men to where God has sent it."* **John Calvin**

### Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

1. According to Peter, what things could stop us from sharing our faith in Jesus with others?
2. In verses 14 and 15 how does Peter help his readers to deal with these obstacles?
3. What do you think Peter means when he says "in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"?
4. Christians are encouraged to be able 'to give the reason for the hope that you have'.
  - a. What is the hope that we have?
  - b. In a few brief points, try to explain the reason for your hope?



5. How would you answer these questions if they were put to you?
  - a. “How come you dont come out and get smashed with us anymore?”
  - b. “If I was facing a serious illness like you, I’d be a mess! How come you are so calm and ‘together’?”
  - c. “I really worry about the sort of future that my kids and grandkids are going to face on this planet. How about you?”

The rest of the New Testament has plenty to teach us about telling the good news to others. Below are some other places to look.

**2 Corinthians 5:11,14; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Colossians 4:5-6**

6. Head back to 1 Peter 3: 15-16. How does Peter encourage us about the manner in which we speak to others?
7. What would help you be better prepared to speak about Jesus to others?
8. Prayer is an important part of speaking about Christ to others. List below the names of 3 people whom you could pray for.

# STUDY 3 LISTENING TO HOW GOD SPEAKS

## 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

Apart from the gift of His own Son, there is nothing in the world to which we can compare the gift of the scriptures. Jesus taught that the scriptures were the very words of God written for our benefit. (Matthew 4:4) In the Greek language in which the N.T. was written, the word “scripture” referred to the sacred “writings”. What can we find out about this precious gift?

*“The Bible speaks to you in the very tones of God’s voice”* **C.H. Spurgeon**

### Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. What do you learn about the “scriptures” in verse 15?
2. According to Paul, why are the scriptures essential to our salvation?
3. Consider verses 16 and 17. What important qualities of the scriptures does Paul mention in these verses?
4. Paul described the scriptures as being “God-breathed” meaning in a real sense they are God’s word.

<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:20- 21**

- a. What does this short passage teach about how the “scriptures” came to be written?
5. The scriptures are God’s own authorised means of speaking to us. Consider then how you might answer the following objections.
    - a. “The Bible was written so long ago. It can’t be relevant today!”
    - b. “How can you trust the Bible. It is just the word of men!”
    - c. “The Bible is just another religious book.”

The Christian life is like a dangerous but exciting journey. For this reason God gives us the Bible. It helps us understand, how we’ve been rescued, the road ahead, and how we are to avoid losing our way.

Read the box above and then consider the four functions performed by the scriptures in verse 16. Draw a line to match the word (in list A) to an explanation of what this word means (in list B).

**List A**

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training in righteousness

**List B**

- Warning that we are off the track
- How to continue on the track
- All about life on the track
- How to get back on the track

# STUDY 3 LISTENING TO HOW GOD SPEAKS

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## 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

6. In your experience, what things can make Bible reading difficult?
  
7. Why do you think regular Bible reading is necessary?
  
8. What would be a good regular pattern of Bible reading for you?  
(Consider the following)
  - a. How many days a week?
  
  - b. What time of day?
  
  - c. How long would you spend?
  
  - d. Where would you start reading?
  
9. Ask that God will give you insight as you read the Bible and that He will help you to persevere.

## STUDY 4 LIVING BY FAITH

### MATTHEW 6:25-34

#### What do you worry about?

So what is the bottom line difference between worry and concern?

It is how you position God in relationship to your troubles. Shut him out of the loop and you will worry – and find the situation hopeless. Or mentally put God between you and your problem, and you have a concern. But the problem is not hopeless, because God is your hope.

A group of would be followers once asked Jesus what they would need to do if they were to please God. In reply, Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:29) It is God's desire that His children trust Him, because He is eminently trustworthy. Any other response is an insult to him!

#### Read Matthew 6:25-34

1. Jesus says that there are some things that we ought not to worry about. (Verses 25, 28, 31) List these below.
  - a. Verse 25
  - b. Verse 26, 30
  - c. Verse 27
2. What reasons does Jesus give for not worrying?
  - a. Verse 25
  - b. Verse 26, 30
  - c. Verse 27

# STUDY 4 LIVING BY FAITH

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## MATTHEW 6:25-34

- d. Verse 32
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3. Faith is only as valid as the object in which it is placed. Can you give an everyday example of faith:
    - a. That is placed in the wrong object?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. That is placed in the right object?
  
  4. According to the verses below, why is it always valid to trust God for our needs?
    - a. Philippians 4:19
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. Matthew 7:11
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. Matthew 19:26

Genuine Christian faith rests on the foundation of God's word. We should not presume to simply wait upon God to do for us things which He has not promised to do. For this reason we need to understand the scriptures so that we can know God and His promises better. Below are just a few of the promises God makes to His children.

**(John 15:7; Romans 8:28; Galatians 6:7)**



# STUDY 5 GROWING IN GENEROSITY

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## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

Jesus once said, "The poor you will always have with you." (Mark 14:7) There will always be a need in our world to be generous in our giving to worthy causes. However, there is one cause that none will give to except for the Christian. This is the cause of the gospel and the care for the Christian family.

*"In this world, it is not what we take up but what we give up that makes us rich."*

### Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

1. In verses 6 and 7 what attitudes to giving are encouraged?
2. In verses 6 and 7 what attitudes to giving should we avoid?

This chapter of the Bible speaks about a collection that Paul was organising for Jewish Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hardship and possibly famine. **(Romans 15:25-27; 2 Corinthians 9:12)**

3. In the following verses, how does Paul encourage these Christians to be generous?
  - a. 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7
  - b. 2 Corinthians 9:8
  - c. 2 Corinthians 8:9





# STUDY 6 SERVING IN THE FAMILY

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## JOHN 13 AND ROMANS 12:1-8

We saw in Study 1 of this series that following Jesus is not an individual exercise – we encourage, and are encouraged by, our brothers and sisters in Christ. But wait, there is more! The Bible calls us to serve one another. And not just our spiritual family, but all people.

“We are healed to help one another. We are blessed to be a blessing. We are saved to serve, not to merely sit around and wait for heaven.” **Rick Warren**

**In your time around Christians and church, where have you seen people being other-person-centred and serving others?**

### **Read John 13: 3-5, 12-17**

1. What do you find striking about verses 3-5?
2. What is the lesson he draws out for his disciples? (vv12-15)
3. What's the lesson for us?

### **Read Romans 12:1-8**

4. Paul has spent 11 chapters talking about God's mercy in saving us from judgement through Jesus. What does he say we should do in response? (Verse 1)

5. How should we NOT think of ourselves, and what is the right way to think of ourselves? (Verse 3)
  
6. How does becoming a Christian help you to think of yourself in these ways?
  
7. What's the connection with our physical body and who we are as Christians? (Verse 4-5)

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul has a lot more to say about 'the body'. The church is like a body (verse 12-14). God has made us all different parts of the body (verse 18), and one part cannot say another is unimportant (verse 21). Each part of the body should have concern for every other part, suffering and rejoicing with each other (verse 25-26)

8. (Optional) Verse 6 says something special to us who are part of Jesus' body, that transforms us from being passive to active. What is it?
  
9. (Optional) Because we are part of the one body, and have been given gifts, then what are we to do with them? (vv6-8)



11. And, finally, in verse 11 Peter gives us a spectacular reason for serving others with the strength God provides... what is it?

**MINISTRY IS USING WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO  
SERVE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO GROW HIS  
CHURCH AND FOR HIS PRAISE AND GLORY.**





