



# Salvation

for the coast and beyond

# SALVATION

Term 1	Passage	Title	Preaching Date
Week 3	Genesis 43-50	To Save Many Lives	29 October
Week 4	Ephesians 1:1-14	Union with Christ	5 November
Week 5	Romans 3:9-26	Atonement	12 November
Week 6	Romans 1:1-17	Vindication	19 November
Week 7	Romans 4:1-25	Justification	26 November
Week 8	Romans 8:1-17	Adoption	3 December
Week 9	Romans 6:1-23	Sanctification	10 December
Week 10	Romans 8:18-30	Glorification	17 December

## The Bible in a Year

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
3	Genesis 43-50	2 Corinthians 4	Proverbs 1
4	Ephesians 1:1-14	Philippians 3	Proverbs 2
5	Romans 3:9-26	Leviticus 16	Proverbs 3
6	Romans 1:1-17	Daniel 7	Proverbs 4
7	Romans 4:1-25	Galatians 2	Proverbs 5
8	Romans 8:1-17	Galatians 3	Proverbs 6
9	Romans 6:1-23	Ephesians 4	Proverbs 7
10	Romans 8:18-30	1 Corinthians 15	Proverbs 8

## 3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# TERM 4 2023

## What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains God's wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

Three ways to use these notes

### 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 asking God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. Growth Groups

- Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group.
- 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.

# WEEK 3: GENESIS 43-50

How does God's sovereignty relate to the evil in the world? Can people change? And will Joseph be the one who brings God's people into God's promised land to enjoy God's blessings forever?

## Week 3: Day 1

READ Genesis 43:26-44:34

Benjamin is significantly younger than the other brothers. He is Joseph's only 'full brother', the only other son of Jacob's 'favourite wife' Rachel.

1. What might have motivated Joseph to give Benjamin such a different meal? (See 37:4.)

2. If it was a test, how did Judah go? (44:12, 17-18, 30-34)

# TO SAVE MANY LIVES

3. As a younger man, Judah had lacked integrity. You may remember his role in Joseph's suffering. (37:26-27). What changes do you now see in him? What characteristics of leadership, and of true repentance, had emerged?

4. It is possible to think that someone is too far gone to be changed. What is wrong with this kind of thinking?

**PRAY:** Consider areas of your life where you have shown a tendency to sin. Confess them to God, asking him to work deep and true repentance and lasting growth in those areas. Pray also by name for your 3:1:1 contacts.



# TO SAVE MANY LIVES

## Day 3

READ Genesis 46:1-8, 41:26-47:12 (If time, Genesis 46-47)

1. Why might Jacob have hesitated to leave Canaan? What reassurance did God provide in 46:2-4?

2. What part of God's promise to Abraham would be fulfilled in Egypt? (see 46:3 & Exodus 1:7) What signs are there in chapter 46 that this promise was beginning to come to pass?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. How had Joseph and Jacob each illustrated this truth? In what ways can the hope of a Christian today be far greater still?

**PRAY:** Turn the words of 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 into your own prayer of thanksgiving to God.

# WEEK 3: GENESIS 43-50

## Day 4

READ Genesis 49 (or, if you have time, read Genesis 47:27-49:33)

1. How would you describe what Jacob was doing in Genesis 49?

2. How are verses 8-11 fulfilled according to the following: Romans 1:5, Hebrews 1:8, Hebrews 7:14, and Revelation 5:5.

3. According to Genesis 49:22-26, what is the key to life?

**PRAY:** Give thanks for our great victor, Christ, who was strong under temptation, to accomplish His work for us. Thank God for his age old work to bring the nations to obedience



# TO SAVE MANY LIVES

## Day 5

READ Genesis 49:29-50:26

More chapters are devoted to Joseph than to the entire story from creation to Abraham! And from him comes the blessing for Abraham's descendants and the world. The reader should start to wonder: "Could he be the offspring of Abraham the world has been waiting for?"

1. In Genesis 50:15-26, what differences do you see between Joseph and his brothers?

2. Genesis 50:20 is one to underline and memorise. What powerful insight does it give about God's goodness amid the evil and suffering in our world?

3. God's sovereignty always seeks the glory of His Son, Jesus and the good of His people. What questions should that truth cause us to ask of ourselves in the midst of suffering?

Genesis has presented us with many examples of weak humans making sinful decisions. Yet it has also highlighted the way God's sovereign and gracious choices stand behind those real decisions, as their ultimate cause. God's sovereign choices have been shown to be unbelievably kind, persisting with a messy family to create a future for His broken world.

**PRAY:** Turn these things into a prayer of thanksgiving. "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for..."

# WEEK 3: GENESIS 43-50

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In Genesis 50:15-26, what differences do you see between Joseph and his brothers? (Day 5 Q 1)

2. What powerful insight does Genesis 50:20 give about God's goodness amid the evil and suffering in our world? (Day 5 Q 2)

3. God's sovereignty always seeks the glory of His Son, Jesus and the good of His people. What questions should that truth cause us to ask of ourselves in the midst of suffering? (Day 5 Q 3)

# WEEK 3: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 4: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

Christians have often debated the “order” in which we receive the various benefits of salvation. Is predestination first, then faith, then justification, then sanctification? Or could justification and sanctification be given simultaneously? While opinions vary, the Bible’s main concern is to show that once a person has Jesus, they have everything! Yes, there is an order and some of it matters critically, but every blessing of salvation comes through Jesus, from Jesus, and is found in Jesus. It’s called “Union with Christ”. He’s the source, the location and the substance of our blessing.

## Week 4: Day 1

READ Ephesians 1:3-14

1. List the blessings we have “in” or “through” Christ.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In the following verses, what does Paul say about the timing of these blessings?
  - a. Verse 4
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Verse 10

# UNION WITH CHRIST

a. Verse 13

b. Verse 14

*"However many blessings we expect from God, His infinite liberality will always exceed all our wishes and our thoughts."*

*John Calvin*

3. If you knew you had a big financial inheritance coming your way in 10 years time, how would that affect your attitude to life now?

**PRAY:** Paul goes on in the rest of the chapter (v 18) to pray that the Ephesians would *know* about all the blessings they already have from 1:3-14. Pray that this term God will deepen your understanding of what you have in Christ.

# WEEK 4: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

## Day 2

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

The idea of union with Christ through the Bible helps us to keep remembering that Jesus is the centre of everything. By faith, we're united to Him. Like in a marriage union, everything that is His becomes ours, and everything that is ours became His.

1. One fruit of a deep understanding of the gospel is humility. Why might that be from these verses?

2. Some religious leaders have falsely said that God makes us "good enough to deserve salvation". What is verse 30 saying about how we're saved?

3. Which of the following expresses the point most clearly: Jesus makes us righteous; Jesus *gives* us righteousness; Jesus *pretends that* we're righteous? (see Philippians 3:9 if you need help)

**PRAY:** Praise God for His generosity in giving us Christ *Himself* as our greatest treasure - our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

# UNION WITH CHRIST

## Day 3

READ JOHN 17

Since Jesus is God, when you have Christ you have the whole Trinity - Father, Son and Spirit. Shortly before Jesus was betrayed and arrested, He prayed to His Father on our behalf. We see a glimpse in that prayer of the deep union between the Father and the Son, and the blessing it is to know Christ.

1. What does Jesus reveal here about His relationship with the Father?

2. What does He reveal about our relationship with the Father?

3. For what benefits does Jesus ask His Father on our behalf?

**PRAY:** Consider your answers to Q3 above and ask these things for yourself.

# WEEK 4: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

## Day 4

READ Romans 5:12-21

“Identity” is a key concept in our world today. A Christian’s core identity is found “in Christ”. Before we were “in Christ” we were “in Adam”. Understanding what it means to be in Adam helps us to realise the immense gift it is to be in Christ & to see the significance of our new identity.

1. What does this passage say about what it means for people to be “in Adam”?

2. What are the similarities and differences between life in Adam and life in Christ?

Similarities	Differences

3. Tim Keller says that for the Christian, the “in Christ” card should be our defining card. Why is this often not the case? How might we change that?

**PRAY:** We were guilty in Adam but we’re justified in Christ. Thank God that it was *not* through your obedience that we were made righteous, but through Christ’s obedience. What a gift!



# UNION WITH CHRIST

## Day 5

### READ ROMANS 8

Romans 8 starts and ends with union in Christ. There is no condemnation for those “in Christ”. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, “in Christ”. It’s arguably the best chapter in the Bible about the blessing of salvation - Jesus.

1. How do the blessings of the Spirit come through Christ (verses 9-11)?
2. What does the Spirit teach us about our relationship with Christ (verses 12-17)?
3. What does the Spirit use to make us like Christ (verses 18-30)?

*“Come life, come death, my soul can rest on this. He died for me. I cannot be punished for my sin. He rose again, I must rise, and though I die yet shall I live again. He sits at the right hand of God, and so must I. I must be crowned and reign with him for ever.”*

Charles Spurgeon

**PRAY:** Pray that your Father would help you to remember the centrality of Christ in every blessing we have. Pray that you’d understand and treasure your adoption as God’s children, united to His true Son by His Spirit, through faith.

# WEEK 4: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In what various ways do people in the world choose to find their identity?
2. List the blessings we have “in” or “through” Christ. (Day 1 Q 1)
3. Tim Keller says that for the Christian, the “in Christ” card should be our defining card. Why is this often not the case? How can we change that? (Day 4 Q 3)

# WEEK 4: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:9-26

Undergirding the truth that we have everything “in Christ” is the atonement. How can a righteous God unite sinners to His Son? The answer lies in the substitutionary atonement of the Cross of Christ. In the scriptures, the cross actually achieves three things. It defeats Satan and the powers of darkness (Colossians 2:14,15); it testifies to us of God’s love and wins our love for Him (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:14); It pays the ransom price for our sins by substituting the guilty for the innocent. That third idea “penal substitutionary atonement” undergirds them all. It has its foundations in the Old Testament.

## Week 5: Day 1

READ EXODUS 33:1-17

This passage follows Israel’s terrible sin involving the worship of the golden calf immediately after their arrival at Mount Sinai. It makes clear the seriousness of human sin.

1. What massively significant change in plans is threatened by God following Israel’s sin? (v’s 3-5, 16)

# ATONEMENT

2. Moses is the Jesus figure in this passage in that he acts as the mediator between God and His people. How does Moses avert God's threat?

*The truth about God's love and hatred of sin is complex. It is sometimes said that He hates the sin but loves the sinner but this is not strictly true. (See Psalm 5:5; Psalm 11:5) Habakkuk 1:13 explains that God's holiness means that he abhors all sin and evil.*

3. What effects might it have on a person's Christian life if he or she is unconvinced about the wrath of God at sin?

**PRAY:** Seeing God's hatred of sin surely makes us wonder how God could ever relate to sinners, yet he does because of the atoning death of Jesus. Thank God for His great gift!

# WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:9-26

## Day 2

READ LEVITICUS 16:1-28 & HEBREWS 10:1-4

1. The OT pictures sin as a most serious contamination. List in summary the steps that needed to be taken by the high priest once a year to cleanse the Israelite community of sin.

2. According to Hebrews 10:1-4, those OT sacrifices, graciously given by God, never actually took away sins. What do you think they did achieve?

3. How were the OT sacrifices, both like and unlike the sacrifice of Jesus?

**PRAY:** Praise God that Jesus came to die as our substitute to atone for our sin permanently.



# WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:9-26

## Day 4

### READ ROMANS 3:21-26

In the first three chapters of Romans, Paul shows that our big problem as humans is “unrighteousness” also known as “wickedness”. God’s wrath is being revealed against unrighteousness (1:18-32). Even those with the law are unrighteous (chapter 2). “There is no-one righteous, not even one” (3:10). It’s clear that if we want to avoid God’s judgement we need a solution to the problem of our unrighteousness.

1. The word “righteousness” is used in two different ways in this passage. What do you learn about it here?

*The words “justified” and “justify” mean respectively “to be declared righteous” & “to declare righteous”. The word “atonement” is a word created to describe the status that Jesus death obtains for us with God i.e. “at-one-ment”*

2. In v's 25 & 26 why did God present Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement? Why was it necessary for God to “demonstrate His righteousness” v 26?



# ATONEMENT

3. Using the definitions given above try to put v 25 in your own words.

4. What might be the effects on a Christian's life of failing to grasp the goodness of Jesus' work of "atonement"?

**PRAY:** Praise God for presenting Christ as a sacrifice of atonement. Pray that you'd keep trusting Christ's atonement for you & pray that many more on the Coast would know this blessing.

# WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:9-26

## Day 5

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

How does the substitution of Jesus work? He was innocent, we're still guilty. No good judge would be satisfied with a willing innocent taking another's punishment. The answer is God's imputed righteousness!

1. One good way to test your understanding of a bible verse is to paraphrase it. Try to put 2 Corinthians 5:21 in your own words.

*Galatians 3:10-14 captures the truth of the atonement by explaining that, although we are under God's curse through our failure to keep His laws, Christ became a "curse for us" Elsewhere we are told that He paid our ransom. (Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 2:5,6)*

2. What does 2 Corinthians 5:21 mean when it says that "in him we might become the righteousness of God"?

# ATONEMENT

3. Would it be just and right for God to punish someone for whom Jesus has died? Why or why not?

2 Corinthians 5 describes an act of “double imputation”. Our sin was imputed to Christ, meaning that Christ was counted as if he were a guilty sinner. And Christ’s righteousness was imputed to us, meaning we’re counted as if we had lived perfectly righteous lives. Imputation is different from impartation. In impartation, you actually change someone. In imputation, you treat them as if they’ve changed, even if they haven’t. What a gift!

**PRAY:** Are there people you know who have not received God’s gift of imputed righteousness? Perhaps your 3.1.1 contacts. Pray for them now.

# WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:9-26

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What effects might it have on a person's Christian life if he or she is unconvinced about the wrath of God at sin? (Day 1 Q 3)

2. The word "righteousness" is used in two different ways in Romans 3:21-26. What do you learn about it in that passage? (Day 4 Q 1)

3. What might be the effects on a Christian's life of failing to grasp the goodness of Jesus' work of "atonement"? (Day 4 Q 4)

# WEEK 5: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 6: ROMANS 1:1-17

The Cross changed everything. Jesus, as our substitute, lived the perfect human life, had our sin imputed to him, and died in our place for the forgiveness we need. That sounds like everything! So what's the deal with the resurrection?

## Week 6: Day 1

READ PSALM 22

Vindication is the act of clearing someone of blame or suspicion. The evidence suggests that during the time of His crucifixion, Jesus had Psalm 22 in mind and was quoting it to Himself, perhaps to uphold His faith. The first words of the psalm appear in Mark 15:33 and the last words in John 19:30. The Psalm speaks of a man who, at the end is vindicated

1. The crucifixion was a time of deep shame and disgrace for God's Son, and apparent victory for God's enemies. If Jesus had in mind all of Psalm 22, what could he have intended when he quoted the first verse?
2. What does Jesus' resurrection say about his relationship with God? What might someone think if Jesus had remained in the tomb?
3. Christians are those who've put their trust in Jesus. In what ways do we need "vindication"? In what ways does Jesus' relationship with God matter for our vindication?

**PRAY:** Psalm 22 changes at verse 19 from what had largely been "statement" to what becomes largely "request". Turn v's 19-31 into a prayer for yourself and others.

# VINDICATION

## Day 2

READ PSALM 110 & 2 SAMUEL 7:11-17

One of the most important passages in the Old Testament is 2 Samuel 7 in which God promises King David that His son (the word is descendant) will build a house for God's name and that his kingdom will be established forever. This Messianic promise, partially fulfilled in Solomon, is the basis of many OT passages, including Psalm 110

1. In Psalm 110, what does God promise to do for David's lord, who sits at God's right hand?
2. Consider the paragraph above along with Psalm 110. How does the resurrection of Jesus vindicate him as David's true son, rather than Solomon (2 Samuel 7). And also David's lord from Psalm 110?
3. What should you conclude about Jesus if the resurrection never occurred?

**PRAY:** Praise God for installing Jesus as king over all; for establishing His kingdom forever; for his victory over His enemies, and for His eternal priestly role.

# WEEK 6: ROMANS 1:1-17

## Day 3

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 & DANIEL 7:13-14

1. In Philippians 2:8-11 what are the results of Jesus' resurrection?

It is important to consider v 7. When Jesus "made himself nothing", was it by subtraction (taking *off* his divine nature) or by addition (taking on human nature)? It matters for His suitability to make atonement.

2. How can Jesus have the "name above every name"? Shouldn't he have the name above every name "except for God who has a higher name than Him"?

3. In Daniel 7 a being in human form is treated as if they are God. If Jesus wasn't raised, what would He have missed out on?

**PRAY:** Thank Jesus for his willing self-humiliation to take on our lowly nature, even to the point of death. And praise Him as the wise and risen ruler of all.



# VINDICATION

## Day 4

READ ACTS 2:1-41

Acts 2 is the wonderful passage in which the Messianic era begins with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter's whole sermon seems to be motivated by the naive accusation in verse 13. In response (v's 17-21) he quotes Joel 2:28-32.

1. As you consider the words from Joel, what's Peter's big point:

- about Jesus in verses 22-24?
- about David in verses 25-29?
- about what the resurrection proves in verses 30-36?

2. How might Peter's sermon comfort someone who's mocked for worshipping Jesus?

**PRAY:** The resurrection is first preached in response to confusion and mocking. Do you know people for whom that is true? Pray for them now with confidence that Jesus has been raised.

# WEEK 6: ROMANS 1:1-17

## Day 5

READ ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul starts his letters with a common formula which you'll pick up in the first 2-3 verses. Romans starts in this familiar way but with an expansion about God's Son. His resurrection is viewed here as an "appointment" or "installation".

1. What does Paul tell you about Jesus in v's 2-6?

2. The resurrection is like the last in a series of dominos. What does it prove about Jesus in v 4? What other claims of Jesus are vindicated by the resurrection?

3. As you consider what we've seen this week, why does the resurrection matter to daily Christian life?

**PRAY:** The resurrection gives great confidence to live for Jesus and to speak of Him to those who lack the hope of the gospel. Pray that it will have this impact on you.

# VINDICATION

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In what sort of situations might we as christians need “vindication”? (Day 1 intro)

2. The resurrection is like the last in a series of dominos. What does it prove about Jesus in v 4? What other claims of Jesus are vindicated by the resurrection? (Day 5 Q 2)

3. In what ways does Jesus’ relationship with God matter for our vindication? (Day 1 Q 3)



# WEEK 6: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# JUSTIFICATION

What is Justification and how are we justified? During the 16th century, the Reformers, proclaimed that we are “Justified by faith alone”. The Roman Catholic church replied “If anyone says that by faith alone the ungodly are justified, let him be eternally condemned.” We’ve already seen that in Romans 3, but it’s helpful to see it again.

## Week 7: Day 1

READ ROMANS 3:9-26

It’s uncanny how many people think that God gave the ten commandments (“the law”) to show people how to get saved! One of God’s main reasons for giving the law is summed up in Romans 3:20.

1. How does v 20 sum up the point Paul was making in v’s 9-19?

*The phrase “declared righteous” (dikaiōthēsetai) in verse 20 is actually translating the same idea as in verse 24 i.e. “justified” (dikaïoumenoi). The word means to be “acquitted” by the judge of all charges & declared not guilty.*

2. How is a person “justified” according to Romans 3?

3. How should we think of the Roman Catholic church’s teaching that “If anyone says that by faith alone the ungodly are justified, let him be eternally condemned”?

**PRAY:** The teaching of the Roman Catholic church reflects the basic belief of many of our unconverted friends. This is why the gospel, when understood, is such a wonderful blessing. Pray that many of those people will hear and respond to the good news!

# WEEK 7: ROMANS 4:1-25

## Day 2

READ LUKE 18:9-14

People who don't like the idea of "Justification by faith alone" suggest that Paul made it up, while Jesus taught that we have to earn our justification. Let's go check what Jesus said!

1. In light of v 9, what do you learn about the character of the two men described?

2. Are there areas in which you are tempted to think of yourself like the tax collector?

3. Some might think that "justification" is just a religious idea but in what ways do worldly people seek to "justify their lives"? The Pharisee gives just one example.

**PRAY:** Pray that the truth about the gift of justification would shape and humble and soften your character.

# JUSTIFICATION

## Day 3

READ GALATIANS 2:11-18; 3:7-14, 23-25; 5:2-6

In a dramatic confrontation, the apostle Paul sharply rebuked Peter over his decision to draw back from eating with his gentile brothers. At stake was the central importance of the doctrine of “justification by faith alone”. It has a great bearing on how we evaluate the teaching of any church.

1. What was Peter doing wrong & why did it matter so much to Paul?
2. Which parts of what you’ve read help to show the importance of “justification by faith alone”?
3. Peter’s example sent the wrong message about how a person gets right with God. What things could we do that might send that same message?

**PRAY:** Pray that God would give you such delight in the truth about justification by faith that you live it out in both action and words.

# WEEK 7: ROMANS 4:1-25

## Day 4

### READ ROMANS 4:1-25

After finishing Romans 3, Paul was clearly concerned that the Christians in Rome might be worried that justification by faith was some new invention. Was it the case that Old Testament believers earned their justification by obeying the Law? For that reason, Paul immediately addressed that issue in Romans 4.

1. In v's 1-8, Paul gives two Old Testament examples of justification by faith i.e. Abraham and David.

a. What word(s) in these verses show how Abraham received righteousness? (see also v's 10, 16,17)

b. What word(s) in these verses show how David received righteousness?

2. Explain how v's 4 & 5 explain the idea of justification by faith instead of works?

3. God justifies the "ungodly". In what various ways might this wonderful truth impact us?

**PRAY:** Paul expected that the truth of justification by faith would undercut any pride in the heart of the Christian (v 2). Pray that this powerful truth will have its full impact on you and on our church.



# JUSTIFICATION

## Day 5

READ ROMANS 4:25

We are usually taught that the sacrificial death of Jesus brings our justification. But this is not the way Romans 4 ends. Rather we are justified by his resurrection! Why? The pieces for understanding this should now be in place from what we saw in week 4.

1. What does Romans 4:25 teach about how our sins are dealt with by God?

*When Christ was resurrected, he was “justified” i.e. declared to be no sinner but the righteous Son of God. Faith unites us to Him, so that for those “in Christ” whatever is His has become ours. His vindication, His justification, is ours.*

2. In week 6 we saw that Jesus’ resurrection, vindicated him as God’s Messiah. What do you imagine the result of this vindication is for those “in Christ”? (see v 25)

3. Someone says to you, “The resurrection of Jesus is not important. It’s only his death that matters.” How would you respond to this?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the reassuring gift of Jesus’ resurrection and all that it secures for us. Ask God to deepen your confidence in the resurrection.

# WEEK 7: ROMANS 4:1-25

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Some might think that “justification” is just a religious idea but in what ways do worldly people seek to “justify their lives”? The Pharisee gives just one example. (Day 2 Q 3)

2. God justifies the “ungodly”. In what various ways might this wonderful truth impact us? (Day 4 Q 3)

3. How should we think of the Roman Catholic church's teaching that *“If anyone says that by faith alone the ungodly are justified, let him be eternally condemned”*? (Day 1 Q 3)

# WEEK 7: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 8: ROMANS 8:1-17

“Justification is the basic blessing on which adoption is founded; adoption is the crowning blessing, to which justification clears the way...Adopted status belongs to all who receive Christ (John 1:12). The adopted status of believers means that in Christ God loves them as he loves his only-begotten Son and will share with them all the glory that is Christ’s now...To be right with God the Judge [justification] is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father [adoption] is a greater.”

J.I. Packer “Knowing God”

## Week 8: Day 1

READ ROMANS 8:9-17

1. In v 15 the Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of adoption” (ESV). List the blessings of our adoption in these verses.

# ADOPTION

2. Many Christians agonise over how to discover God's will. What would you say is God's will for His children? What is it in these verses? (see also Romans 8:29)

*"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father."*

J.I. Packer

3. Consider the words above. How might a Christian show their delight in being a child of God?

**PRAY:** As children of God, pray the prayer Jesus' taught us to pray *to our Father* in Matthew 6:7-13

# WEEK 8: ROMANS 8:1-17

## Day 2

READ GALATIANS 4:1-7

In this short passage, Paul uses an analogy where he likens those before conversion (and Jews before the coming of Jesus) to “slaves”. Then he compares them with believers who have been adopted into God’s family whom he likens to “sons”.

1. In these verses, what changes take place when an “heir” becomes a “son”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What can you find out about our present possession in Christ and what can you find out about our future inheritance? (see also Psalm 16:5; Deuteronomy 9:19; Romans 8:32)

*Many including the current Anglican Archbishop of York complain that the notion of the “Fatherhood” of God is a bad one since so many have had an experience of poor fathers. But as J.I. Packer writes: “this is silly. For in the first place, it is just not true to suggest that in the realm of personal relations, positive concepts cannot be formed by contrast. Similarly, the thought of our Maker becoming our perfect parent...is one which can have meaning for everybody.”*

3. What qualities might you expect from God as your perfect Father?

**PRAY:** God Himself is our inheritance forever and we are His. he is the perfect Father of which our earthly fathers are only a poor shadow. Praise Him for the attributes you’ve listed which he gives us to enjoy in Himself.

# ADOPTION

## Day 3

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Many Christians struggle with the idea of predestination because it speaks of a God who is greater than we can imagine. It can take time and maturity to trust that one who is so great is also so good and that His plans for us are likewise so good, especially when they differ from our own self centred dreams.

1. According to Ephesians 1, what are we predestined for?
2. What similarities and differences are there between verse 4 and 5?
3. Eternity has been secured for us in Christ since God sovereignly predestines His people according to His own pleasure. What implications does this security have for the way we live Christian life now?

**PRAY:** God is in control of all the events in our lives. Ask Him therefore to help you, trusting that if circumstances don't go the way you wanted, it's because He has a better plan.

# WEEK 8: ROMANS 8:1-17

## Day 4

READ JOHN 1:6-14

Jesus in this passage is given two titles: the “Word” and the “light”. These titles are no doubt chosen by John to convey something of Jesus’ role as the one who reveals God to us.

1. Knowing that Jesus is both the Word and the light, what has he done and what does He do according to this passage?

2. While the word “adoption” doesn’t appear here, the passage still makes reference to the idea.

- What does it mean to be “children born not of natural descent”?
- What is implied by calling this a “right”?

3. What does it mean to you personally that you have been given the “right” to be God’s child?

**PRAY:** Praise your heavenly Father for sending His Son, that we too could become His children. Pray that we’d be able to grasp more deeply, the immensity of the blessing to know God as our Father.



# ADOPTION

## Day 5

READ JOHN 3:1-10

1. In this passage what are the implications of being God's adopted children?

2. What reason is given for saying that "no one who is born of God will continue to sin"?

*It is possible to misunderstand v's 6 & 9. John was writing to a context where false teachers seemed to be advocating a lifestyle that took little account of sin. In fact, they seemed to deny their own sin. Yet John is clear, no Christian is sinless. To think so can only encourage pride, despair and dishonesty. (see 1 John 1:8-2:2. Nonetheless, our adoption ought to bring real change.*

3. How would you explain what John means in v's 6 & 9 to a friend who is investigating Christ?

**PRAY:** Ask that God would so deepen your hope of seeing Christ (v's 2 & 3) that He will continue to prompt you to purify yourself.

# WEEK 8: ROMANS 8:1-17

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Many Christians agonise over how to discover God's will. What would you say is God's will for His children? (Day 1 Q 2)

2. List the blessings of our adoption in Romans 8:9-17 (Day 1 Q 1).

3. How might a Christian show their delight in being a child of God? (Day 1 Q 3)

# WEEK 8: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 9: ROMANS 6:1-23

The Bible talks about sanctification in two ways. One is a gradual process (progressive sanctification) and the other an instant change in status (positional sanctification). You can think about it from the perspective of human adoption. On the day someone is adopted, their new parents visit them, finalise the paperwork and legally become their parents. It's an instant change in status. But a gradual process has also started and will continue once they get home and start living together, changing their habits and growing together. Both types of change are reflected in the bible.

## Week 9: Day 1

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

The word "to sanctify" in the original language of the New Testament is just the same as the word "to become holy". It means to be "set apart" or different.

1. Where does the word "sanctified", the word "holy" or the idea of sanctification appear in this passage? Does it seem to be positional or progressive?

2. What reasons are given in this passage for the need to grow in holiness i.e. to be progressively sanctified?

3. Are there particular things you'd like to gradually grow in?

**PRAY:** Those who know God have an increasing desire to please Him. Pray that this would be true of you and that He will help you to gradually grow in your sanctification.

# SANCTIFICATION

## Day 2

READ ROMANS 6:15-23

1. Where does this passage talk about positional sanctification (i.e. an instant change in status and where does it talk about it as progressive? (i.e a gradual progress?)

The words of Toplady's famous hymn make reference to the two types of sanctification: positional and progressive.

*Let the water and the blood,  
From your wounded side which flowed,  
Be for sin the double cure,  
Save from its guilt and power.*

2. Saved from guilt and saved from power. Which is positional sanctification and which is progressive?

3. According to Romans 6, why is it possible for us to grow in our sanctification?

**PRAY:** Thank God for freeing you from your slavery to sin and making you a slave to righteousness! Thank God that our gradual progress in living a righteous life isn't the substance of our righteousness before Him. This we have by means of our justification.

# WEEK 9: ROMANS 6:1-23

## Day 3

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-20

The gospel had a powerful impact on the people of Corinth. They were far from perfect just like us but lives were being changed by the power of Christ. That gospel power firstly brought justification, the declaration that they were not guilty and as a result brought the desire to live new lives- progressive sanctification.

1. What evidence in v's 1-11 suggests that the Corinthians were sinners who were slowly being changed?

2. What various motivations does Paul use in v's 7-20 to encourage the Corinthians to grow in progressive sanctification?

3. We are not saved by our works but we're not saved without them either. How would you help a friend who claims to be a Christian but has no desire to live a new life?

**PRAY:** Thank God that “you were washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”. Pray that you'd be motivated to keep pushing forward in holiness.

# SANCTIFICATION

## Day 4

READ ACTS 26:12-18

1. How does Jesus describe Christians in this passage?
2. What could “sanctified by faith” mean?
3. To “sanctify” is to make or consider something holy. How does 1 Corinthians 1:30 talk about sanctification?

Some traditions have taught that we're only justified inasmuch as we're living a righteous life. So our status before God goes up and down over time. Two steps forward, one step back. Another has taught that justification causes sanctification. Our sanctification is generated by our justification. The Bible teaches however, that when we receive Jesus, we get all of the blessings of salvation. So rather than sanctification being part of our justification, or justification causing our sanctification, when we're united to Jesus through faith we get his righteous status (justification) and his holy status (positional sanctification) and we're changed to be more and more like him (progressive sanctification). God given faith is the key because it connects us to Jesus, who is everything.

**PRAY:** Thank God for your righteous status, your holy status and the confident hope of a changed life!

# WEEK 9: ROMANS 6:1-23

## Day 5

READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

1. List 5 things Timothy is to do to encourage his church to grow in godliness?

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2. Paul calls upon Timothy in v 21 to “cleanse” himself? Why is that important in order to “be useful to the Master”?

3. How would you like to be more useful to the Master of the household of Christ?

**PRAY:** Ask for God’s help in growing in you a holy usefulness to His purposes.





# SANCTIFICATION

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. How would you help a friend who claims to be a Christian but has no desire to live a new life? (Day 3 Q 3)

2. Where does this passage talk about positional sanctification (i.e. an instant change in status and where does it talk about it as progressive? (i.e a gradual progress?) (Day 2 Q 1)

3. Are there particular things you'd like to gradually grow in? (Day 1 Q 3)



# WEEK 9: NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

# GLORIFICATION

Gerald Bray writes this about glorification. “The glorification of the Christian is that we shall share in God’s glory when we are in our resurrected bodies in the new heavens and new earth, experiencing deeper fellowship with God and not being at risk of falling away into sin, God’s glory finally being “all in all.” Since union with Christ is the centre of our salvation from beginning to end, the place to begin understanding our glorification is with Jesus’ resurrection, since His is the key and the template to ours!

## Week 10: Day 1

READ LUKE 24:33-49 and John 20:19-29

*“We eagerly await a saviour from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:20-21).*

1. In what ways does it appear that Jesus’ resurrection body is similar and different to his pre-resurrection body?

Continued next page...

# WEEK 10: ROMANS 8:18-30

2. People frequently wonder what they'll be like in heaven: Will they be recognizable and will others?; Will heaven be full of ghostly figures living a ghostly existence? What implications do Jesus' resurrection appearances have for these questions?

It is frequently supposed that Christians believe simply in the "immortality of the soul" rather than the "resurrection of the body". Yet the resurrection is physical. God has not given up on His intentions for us.

3. For what are you longing as you think about heaven?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the fulfilment of the scriptures in the resurrection of Jesus and for the hope it gives us to eagerly await the coming glorification of our own bodies.

# GLORIFICATION

## Day 2

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

It can seem like life on earth will continue unchanged forever. We are born, grow old and die. But Jesus' flesh and blood resurrection shows us that death won't be forever, and knowing the truth about our future should change our present life too!

1. In what ways will the resurrection body differ from the earthly body?

2. Comparing 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 with 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, what sequence of events will lead to our glorification?

3. Paul seems to think that these truths about our resurrection should ground us, making us immovable (verse 58). Why might this be?

*The "work of the Lord" (v 58) doesn't mean anything and everything a Christian does (that's work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23). The work of the Lord that "is not in vain" (v 58) is the work of the gospel which brings new life. Give yourself fully to this!*

**PRAY:** Thank God that as your natural body is being "sown in dishonour", you have the confident hope that your body will be raised in glory.

# WEEK 10: ROMANS 8:18-30

## Day 3

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10

What happens to the Christian between death and the resurrection on the last day? Some traditions teach that our lot is “soul sleep” where spiritually we are apart from the Lord awaiting His return. But the words of Jesus and the expectation of the apostles lead us to expect something better than this.

1. There’s so much imagery in these verses that will help us to define clearly. Therefore, try to express what Paul means by each of the following:

- Earthly tent (v’s 1,4)
- building from God (v 1)
- house in heaven (v 1)
- be clothed (v’s 2,4)
- heavenly dwelling (v’s 2,4)
- naked or unclothed (v’s 3,4)
- unclothed (v 4)
- At home in the body (v’s 6,9)
- At home with the Lord (v 8).

# GLORIFICATION

2. What is Paul saying about:

- our bodies now?
- our resurrection bodies?
- the time in-between our death and our resurrection?

3. The tone of this passage is full of hope and confidence. How does this expectation shape the way Paul felt about life in the present?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you such confidence about your future with Him that you'll use your life now with great energy to please Him.

# WEEK 10: ROMANS 8:18-30

## Day 4

READ ROMANS 8:18-25

This passage is written in the context of “present sufferings”. We can guess from the surrounding verses that these included persecution and personal frailties and yet Paul’s tone is full of optimism.

1. For what things does Paul expectantly await?
  
2. What is “the glory that will be revealed in us”?
  
3. The gift of the Spirit (v 23) is a key to the manner in which we wait. How do you imagine the Spirit might help us while wait?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you wait eagerly, patiently but actively for the freedom and glory of the children of God.



# GLORIFICATION

## Day 5

READ 1 PETER 1:3-9

In a letter written to suffering Christians, Peter's tone is full of joy and optimism. These are great verses to memorise but the first step is to understand them.

1. What moved God to give us new birth?
2. This "living" hope comes through the resurrection of Jesus since :in Christ" we share His resurrection. Why might Peter call it a living hope?
3. How does faith shield us "by God's power"?
4. What reaction does Peter expect to this gracious gift of God?

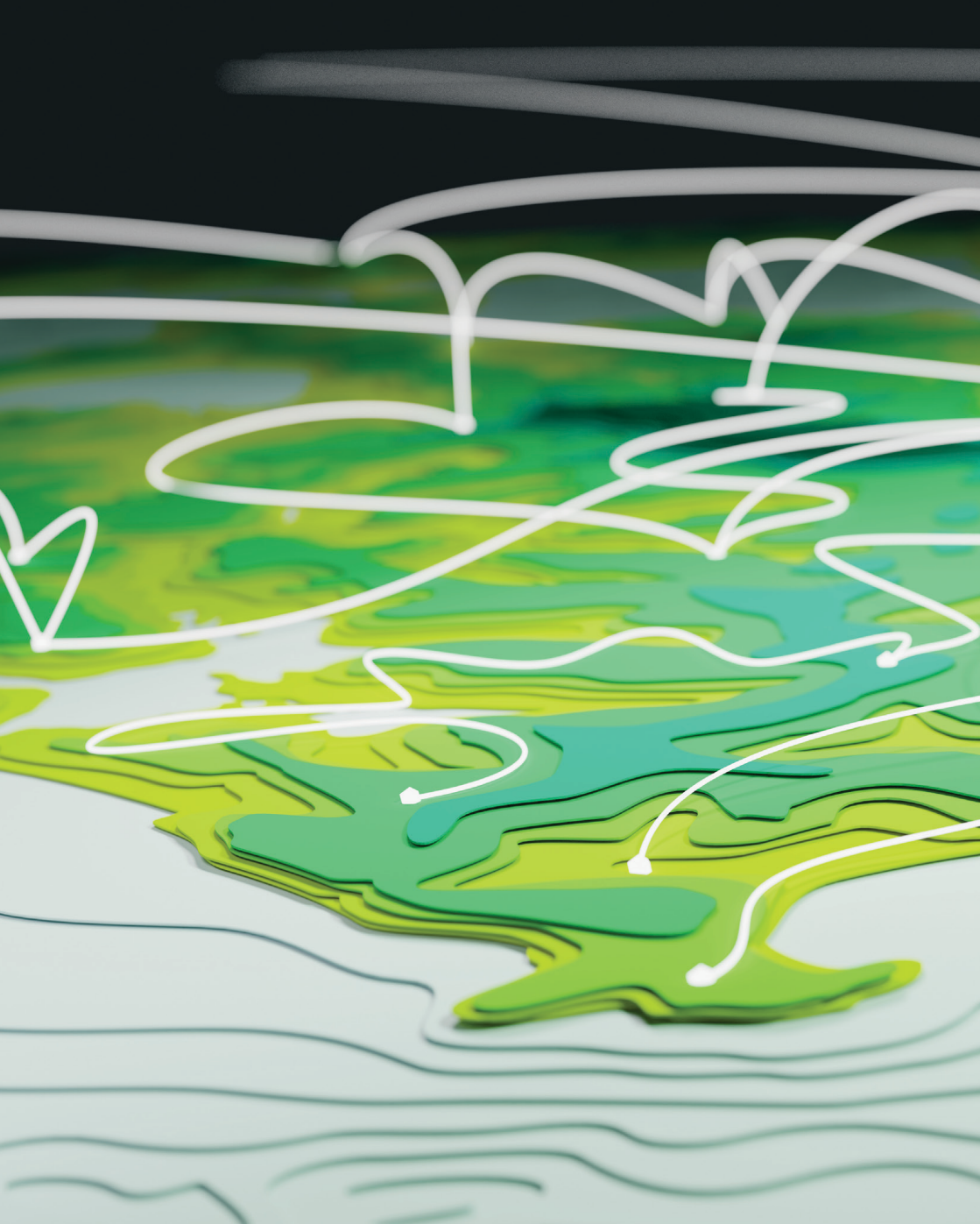
**PRAY:** Thank God for keeping this inheritance in heaven for you. Thank Him for powerfully shielding us until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

# WEEK 10: ROMANS 8:18-30

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. For what are you longing as you think about heaven? (Day 1 Q 3)
2. What is “the glory that will be revealed in us”? (Day 4 Q 2)
3. The gift of the Spirit (v 23) is a key to the manner in which we wait. How do you imagine the Spirit might help us while wait? (Day 4 Q 3)

# WEEK 10 NOTES & PRAYER POINTS



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