

**Bible Study**

A vibrant, abstract background of colorful paint splatters in shades of blue, yellow, red, and purple, creating a dynamic and energetic feel.

# CHURCH on purpose

Trinity Church Brighton  
2024



## Church on Purpose

Do you sometimes feel like you're doing life by accident? Stumbling through, trying to keep up, getting by, flying by the seat of your pants? Sometimes we come to church like that too: church by accident.

Wouldn't it be great to do church on purpose! To be clear on why we gather, which would shape how we gather and what we do when we gather.

Our church has a great mission statement, but I wonder if you've ever given it much thought:

*Empowered by God's Spirit, resting in his grace, and for his glory,  
we make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ,  
in fellowship with his people, to bless a broken world.*

Well, in this series we'll reflect together on the why, the how and the what of doing Church On Purpose. And to help us with that, we're making use of an outstanding little book that has been recently published by a couple of Australian pastors: *Unmissable Church*, by Richard Sweatman and Antony Barraclough. It's biblical and practical, wise and compassionate. In each study we'll reflect on a short passage of scripture as well as a couple of chapters from the book.

So, as we do Church on Purpose, let's look forward with eager anticipation to see how God might work for his glory, as he grows us as his people.

## **Sermon notes for Sunday October 13**

*What have I learned about God, and how will I respond?*

## Study 1: Glorifying God Together

*A visitor comes to church one Sunday. What would you hope is the enduring impression they have from their time with us?*

### **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10**

From this passage, what makes us church?

From this passage, what is the goal of church?

*(Going further: Read 1 Peter 2:4-12 and consider what extra insight we have into these same two questions)*

### **Reflecting on *Unmissable Church*, Intro and Chapters 1 and 2**

Can you identify any ways in which the attitude of self-expression and individualism have affected your own attitude to church and regular church attendance?

How do you feel about belonging to Jesus rather than yourself?

How can the reality of Jesus' heavenly church enrich our thinking about our local church?

## **Sermon notes for Sunday October 20**

*What have I learned about God, and how will I respond?*

## Study 2: Belonging Together

*You're chatting with your non-Christian friend about what you did on the weekend and mention that you went to church. "I've often wondered what it would be like to be part of church – isn't it kind of awkward meeting with a bunch of people who think like that?"*

### **Read Romans 12:3-5**

How is church described here and what do we learn about belonging together?

*(Going further: read Ephesians 2:17-22 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 and consider the same question)*

### **Reflecting on Unmissable Church, Chapters 3 and 4:**

Are there ways that you are undervaluing God's church, including your local church?

Pick one of the ways the Bible talks about church. How could this way of seeing church motivate you to go this week?

What do you think of the suggestion that guilt or shame might hinder people from coming to church?

How can we help one another if guilt or shame is a barrier to going to church?

## **Sermon notes for Sunday October 27**

*What have I learned about God, and how will I respond?*



## Study 3: Growing Together

*What aspect of Jesus' character do you most want to grow in and why?*

### **Read Ephesians 4:11-13**

How does verse 11 and 12 connect the ministry of particular people (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) with the ministry of all God's people?

How does verse 13 describe the wonderful goal for God's people?

How does this passage describe Jesus as central to who we are as a church?

*(Going deeper: Read Eph 4:14-16. What are we protected from and equipped for, when we grow in maturity together?)*

### **Reflecting on *Unmissable Church*, Chapters 5 and 6:**

In chapter 5 we asked the questions "Is Jesus Lord?" and "Does Jesus come first?" What aspect of life is most likely to displace Jesus as your highest priority or first love?

What are you doing to make new friends at church and grow your existing friendships? How could we help each other in this?

What might we be able to do to help others get to church more regularly, so that we can support one another in life with Jesus?

## **Sermon notes for Sunday November 3**

*What have I learned about God, and how will I respond?*

## Study 4: Serving Together

*What are some unhealthy or ungodly motivations for serving at church?*

### **Read Psalm 51:16-17**

What does this brief passage teach us about what is most pleasing to God?

What encouragement is there here for those who feel constrained by physical or mental illness?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-19**

How does this passage encourage us to take our place and play our part amongst God's people?

### **Reflecting on *Unmissable Church*, Chapters 7 and 8:**

What did you find most helpful in chapter 7?

What simple steps can you take, or what simple questions can you ask, to be a blessing to others in your church?

To what extent do you view church as the body of Christ, of which you are an integral part?

Do you believe that you need church and church needs you? In theory and in practice?

## **Sermon notes for Sunday November 10**

*What have I learned about God, and how will I respond?*

## Study 5: Scattered Together

*How does gathering at church on Sunday encourage you for when we are scattered across our city through the rest of the week?*

### **Reflecting on *Unmissable Church*, Chapter 9 and Appendix 1:**

Which of the warnings from Hebrews did you find most relevant?  
Which of the encouragements did you find most helpful?

How can we maintain or recover the habit of meeting regularly with God's people?

### **Read Matthew 5:13-16**

We tend to read this passage as individuals rather than a church. What difference does it make to realise that Jesus is speaking to 'us' not just 'me'?

### **Read 1 Peter 2:9-12**

How does gathering as God's people equip and encourage us for living as God's people scattered in the world?

We looked at this passage in Study 1. How has your perspective on what it means to be part of church changed since then?

# Prayer Points



