

**D I S
C I P
L E S
H I P**

B I B L E S T U D I E S

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INTRODUCTION

“Come, follow me ...”

This is Jesus’ call to discipleship. It is the adventurous call of the narrow path instead of the broad way. It is the costly call to renounce all to be with him. It is the unsettling call to unlearn the old ways as we learn that he is *the* way. It is the joyful call to find truth and life in him.

We hope and pray that these studies will help us do this together. Of course, this is at the very heart of the Trinity Network of Churches—it is what we seek to do every day and every week and across all our ministries. We hope that we can unpack together some of the core elements of a life responding to Jesus’ call.

Understanding the shape of this series is helpful before we start. God is building a house by his grace. Jesus is at the centre. The Scriptures are the firm foundation. Everything that follows finds its place under the same roof, around Jesus, on the same foundation. Given that God calls us to a whole-of-life response to the gospel, we could have ordered the rest of the series in any number of ways. Yet we think it appropriate to finish in praise of God, for this is the goal of creation and the vision of our churches—the glory of God as his children overflow in praise, together proclaiming: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!’

FREE RESOURCES

Visit our website to download free resources including a leader’s guide and introductory videos for each study.

www.trinitynetwork.church/discipleship



STUDY 1



**SAVED BY
GRACE**

SAVED BY GRACE



Reflect

1. What must you do to be saved?



Investigate

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV 2011)

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

From Ephesians 2:1-3

2. What is a person's spiritual status before becoming a Christian?
3. What can a dead person contribute to their rescue?

From Ephesians 2:4-7

4. List the things that we contribute to our salvation.
5. How is God's salvation described?
6. What is in store for a person saved by grace?

7. What does this tell us about God?

From Ephesians 2:8-10

8. How should a person who is saved by grace respond?

9. If we are saved by grace, why do good works?



Apply

10. From this passage, how would you explain 'grace' to a person who does not believe in Jesus?

11. How might you recognise early warning signs in yourself that you are being tempted to let go of God's grace?

12. Pray, giving thanks for God's grace and asking him to help you grow in your knowledge and appreciation of it.



Further reading

Bible passages

- Luke 19:1-10
- Romans 5:1-11

Books

- *A Fresh Start* by John Chapman
- *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott



Glossary

'Grace'

An undeserved gift which costs the giver, not the receiver.

'Salvation'

Deliverance from sin and its consequences.

STUDY 2



**DEVOTED
TO JESUS**

DEVOTED TO JESUS



Reflect

1. What has it cost you to follow Jesus? What have you seen it cost other Christians? What has made it easier or harder to make that sacrifice?



Investigate

Read Mark 5:1-20 (NIV 2011)

⁵ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd,

about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

-
2. What words would you use to describe the quality of life of the ‘man with an impure spirit’ before he met Jesus?

 3. What do we read in this passage that might provide the reason for why the people of the region respond to Jesus in the way that they do? What’s understandable about their reaction? What’s tragic about their response?

 4. How would you describe the way the healed man responds to Jesus in verse 18?

5. What do we learn about Jesus from his reply in verse 19?

6. What does the man actually go away and do? What do we learn from this about the essence of our evangelistic message?



Apply

7. What do we learn from this passage about what it means to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

8. What requests have you made of Jesus, and how have you interpreted his response?

9. What does Jesus ask of us as his disciples? What will motivate us to want to do his will regardless of the cost?

10. How will you pray in response to this passage?



Further reading

Bible passage

- Luke 19:1-10

Book

- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Glossary

'Gerasenes'

The region to the east of the Sea of Galilee. This is part of the wider region known as the Decapolis (Ten Cities), which was predominantly non-Jewish.

'Legion'

Legion was a military term for a group of soldiers numbering between 4,000 and 6,000.

STUDY 3



GROUNDING IN SCRIPTURE

GROUNDING IN SCRIPTURE



Reflect

1. When you consider the Bible, which statements do you agree with? Why or why not?
 - It is a handy guide for everyday living
 - It is the ultimate authority for godly living
 - It is humanity's word about God
 - It is God's word to humanity
 - It is one scripture among many
 - It is good but too hard to apply usefully



Investigate

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV 2011)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. What is the purpose of Scripture according to verse 15?

3. What is the significance of each of the following words in verse 16?
- ‘All’
 - ‘Scripture’
 - ‘is’
 - ‘God-breathed’
4. What is Scripture useful for (verse 16)? What is meant by each of these uses?
5. What is the outcome Scripture promises (verse 17)?
6. Read the following passages and consider what they reveal about Jesus’ view of Scripture:
- Matthew 4:4
 - Matthew 5:17-20
 - John 10:35

7. When Paul wrote to Timothy and referred to ‘Scripture’ he was referring to what we now call the Old Testament Scriptures, but what he says remains true of ‘all Scripture’. Read the following passages and consider how they help us see that the teaching of the apostles carries the same authority and purpose:

- John 16:12-15
- 2 Peter 3:15-16
- Revelation 22:18-19

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 (NIV 2011)

⁴ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

8. As a leader of the church, what should Timothy do with the Scriptures?



Apply

9. Why is reading the Bible valuable?

10. The *Thirty-nine Articles* contain doctrinal statements for the Anglican Church (Church of England), constructed in 1562 at the time of the Reformation. Article 6 is entitled *Of the Sufficiency of the holy Scriptures for salvation* and reads:

‘Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the holy Scripture we do understand those Canonical books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.’

Given the articles still retain authority in the Anglican Church today, what should we expect of the pastors and teachers within Anglican churches?

11. A young Christian asks you for advice about listening to God. What would you say?

12. In light of what we have read, how might we respond appropriately if we do not feel ‘thoroughly equipped for every good work’ (2 Timothy 3:17)?

13. What is the difference between Scripture *informing* us and *forming* us?

14. As you pray, give thanks to God for his Word and pray that he would not only fill our heads, but shape our hearts and equip our hands.



Further reading

Bible passages

- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Hebrews 1:1-4

Books

- *The Bible* by Scott Petty
- *The Book of Books* by Geoff Robson



Glossary

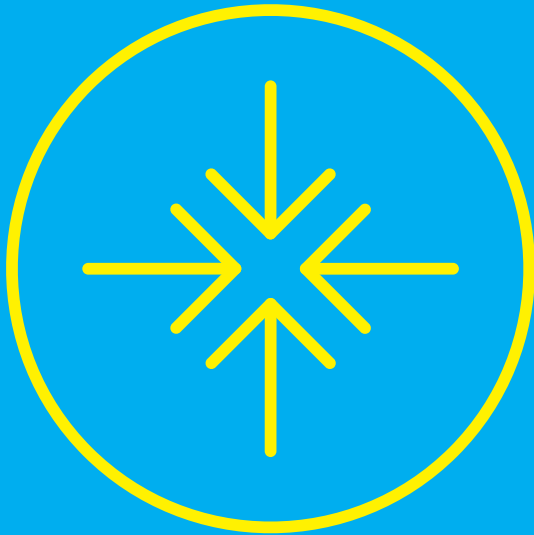
‘God-breathed’

God has ‘breathed out’ Scripture, making the revealed word (Holy Scripture) authoritative for instruction for godly living. He guided and directed human authors as they wrote down what the Holy Spirit wanted them to say.

‘Righteousness’

In this instance, righteousness is living rightly before God. It is because we are already declared right before God (righteous) that we can live rightly (in righteousness) before him. Both are acts of God’s grace through his Son, by his Spirit.

STUDY 4



BELONGING TO CHURCH

BELONGING TO CHURCH



Reflect

1. What do people tend to look for in a church, and why?



Investigate

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV 2011)

⁴ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

From Ephesians 4:1-6

2. What is the basis of the unity we have with each other in the body of Christ?

3. What indication do we get in this section that maintaining unity may not be easy and may not come naturally?

From Ephesians 4:7-16

4. What (or who) are the 'gifts' which Christ has given to his people? Why has he given them?

5. What are the marks of growing maturity in the body of Christ?

6. What do we learn from this passage as a whole about the importance of belonging to the body of Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-27 (NIV 2011)

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

7. Paul writes to the Corinthian church about the body of Christ being one body, yet made up of many parts. Complete the table below.

What issue or attitude is Paul addressing?	Who has acted to form the body (and why)?
1 Corinthians 12:15-20	1 Corinthians 12:15-20
1 Corinthians 12:21-27	1 Corinthians 12:21-27



Apply

8. How do the two Bible passages we have considered affirm or challenge what people tend to look for in a church?

9. In light of this study, what simple, practical things will you do differently this week when you go to church?
10. Beyond just the Sunday gathering, what simple, practical things can you do to help build up the body of Christ?
11. Pray, giving thanks for the church you belong to, and pray for yourself and others in it.



Further reading

Bible passage

- Hebrews 10:19-25

Books

- *How to Walk Into Church* by Tony Payne
- *The Living Church* by John Stott



Glossary

‘Church’

In the New Testament, ‘church’ never refers to a building, but to the gathering of God’s people (the word in the original language, ‘ekklesia,’ means gathering or meeting).

STUDY 5



GENEROUS IN GIVING

GENEROUS IN GIVING



Reflect

1. Discuss the following quote:

‘Rich societies such as Australia seem to be in the grip of a collective psychological disorder. We react with alarm and sympathy when we come across an anorexic who is convinced she is fat, whose view of reality is so obviously distorted. Yet, as a society surrounded by affluence, we indulge in the illusion that we are deprived. Despite the obvious failure of the continued accumulation of material things to make us happy, we appear unable to change our behaviour. We have grown fat but we persist in the belief that we are thin and must consume more.’ – CLIVE HAMILTON AND RICHARD DENNISS, AFFLUENZA

2. How do you feel when you hear someone preaching/teaching/talking about financial giving?



Investigate

Background

In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul had a very specific but sensitive issue to raise with his Christian brothers and sisters. He wrote to make sure the church put aside the total amount of money they had promised to give to the poor believers in Jerusalem. It was a practical demonstration of unity in the gospel shared by the Gentile converts (Corinth) and their Jewish brothers and sisters in Christ (Jerusalem).

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15 (NIV 2011)

8 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

¹⁶ Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. ¹⁷ For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. ¹⁸ And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.

¹⁹ What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honour the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. ²⁰ We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. ²¹ For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

²² In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. ²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honour to Christ. ²⁴ Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

9 There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. ² For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. ³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.

⁴ For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.

⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

7. The two chapters are sprinkled with a good dose of common sense when it comes to giving. Work through the table below to identify some of this wise advice.

Wise advice on giving
2 Corinthians 8:11
2 Corinthians 8:12
2 Corinthians 8:13-14
2 Corinthians 8:16-21
2 Corinthians 9:7

8. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, how does Paul attempt to realign the Corinthians' hearts and thoughts so that they see their resources from a Christian worldview and perspective?



Apply

9. It is all too easy to talk about such things at a theoretical level and not allow it to penetrate to our hearts and actions. Take some time to complete the following table for yourself.

A personal exercise

Step 1: Calculate your total household income and the amount you give to Christian ministry.

<u>Income</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Salaries \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	Church \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
Allowances and salary sacrifice \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	Mission** \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
Investment income \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	Other \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
Government assistance* \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Other \$ <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	

* e.g. pension, Youth Allowance, Family Tax Benefit, etc.
** e.g. Church Missionary Society, Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, etc.

Step 2: Calculate the percentage of your income you give to Christian ministry.

÷

× 100
 =

%

Total giving
Total income

10. Given the above, would you assess yourself and your giving as generous?

11. What would it look like for you to excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:9)?

12. Reflect on the issues that may be blocking you from being a (more) generous giver. Share these with someone you trust so that you might be able to encourage one another. Pray together that God would deal with these obstacles.



Further reading

Bible passage

- Matthew 6:19-34

Books

- *Beyond Greed* by Brian Rosner
- *Cash Values* by Tony Payne
- *Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller



Glossary

‘Macedonia’

Macedonia roughly corresponds to today’s Northern Greece, while Corinth was located in Southern Greece. In the New Testament context, Macedonia included the cities of Thessalonica and Philippi. You can read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 or Philippians 1:1-6 as an example of what Paul is talking about.

STUDY 6



DEPENDENT IN PRAYER



Investigate

Read Luke 11:1-13 (NIV 2011)

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Background

Matthew also records Jesus teaching his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. There are slight variations in the wording, which may reflect that Matthew and Luke are emphasising different aspects of the prayer, or they may be recording two different occasions when Jesus taught his disciples to pray. He probably did it even more than twice! These accounts form the basis of what we now know as the Lord's Prayer, which Christians have traditionally concluded with words of praise modelled on King David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:11.

'Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.'

4. What general comments can you make by looking at the Lord's Prayer? How do they challenge our priorities in prayer?

5. Using this table, comment on the parts of the prayer in a way that would be helpful if you were explaining it to someone who was learning to pray.

Prayer	Your explanation	Helpful information
Our Father in heaven		Whilst God's people in the Old Testament saw themselves as God's children, they very rarely addressed God so intimately (Psalm 89:26; Jeremiah 3:4; Isaiah 63:16 & 64:8), though this was something God longed for (Jeremiah 3:19). Wonderfully, Jesus makes it possible (John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1).
Hallowed be your name		'Hallowed' = 'sanctified' = set aside as holy. 'Name' = God's reputation, character and honour.
Your kingdom come		You may like to consider the significance of the kingdom of God in Jesus' ministry—see, for example, the central message that Mark records him saying in Mark 1:15.
Your will be done		'God's will' = what God wants. It refers to his plans, his desires, his purposes. To pray this requires us first knowing what God's will is, and then for it to be willingly obeyed.
On earth as it is in heaven		This phrase actually relates to the three requests that have come before it—that God's name be hallowed, his kingdom come, and his will be done—all as it is in heaven. Heaven is the realm in which God's rule is fully experienced—so, for example, his will is always obeyed (cf. 2 Kings 22, Job 1-2).
Give us each day our daily bread		'Our daily bread' literally means 'the next day's bread'. This is day-to-day dependence on God!

<p>Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us</p>		<p>To forgive someone is to let go of the debt they owe you, so that you no longer expect it to be repaid, much less harbour malice or hatred against them. The aim is reconciliation, but that is not always possible without repentance (cf. Luke 15:11-23 & 17:3).</p>
<p>And lead us not into temptation</p>		<p>Jesus implies that we will continue to be tempted until he returns, and that temptation is dangerous to our souls, but that God can counter this if we ask him (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Hebrews 2:17-18 & 4:15-16).</p>
<p>But deliver us from evil</p>		<p>'Deliver' is also translated as 'rescue' (Luke 1:74; Romans 7:24; Colossians 1:13). 'Evil' is literally 'the evil', referring most likely to 'the evil one'—Satan (meaning 'accuser', also called 'the tempter' and 'the devil' cf. Matthew 4:3,5,10)—against whom Jesus successfully stood where the rest of us have failed.</p>

From Luke 11:5-13

6. What point is Jesus making in verses 5-8 about how we are to pray?
How would we apply this manner of prayer to the model of verses 2-4?

7. What point is Jesus making in verses 9-13 about how God responds?



Apply

8. How does the Lord's Prayer differ from your usual prayers?
9. How is Jesus lifting your view of God and raising your courage and delight in praying to him?
10. Write down three things you feel anxious about. How does the Lord's Prayer give you a framework to pray about these matters? Pray about them in light of the Lord's Prayer.



Further reading

Bible passages

- Philippians 4:4-7
- Acts 12

Books

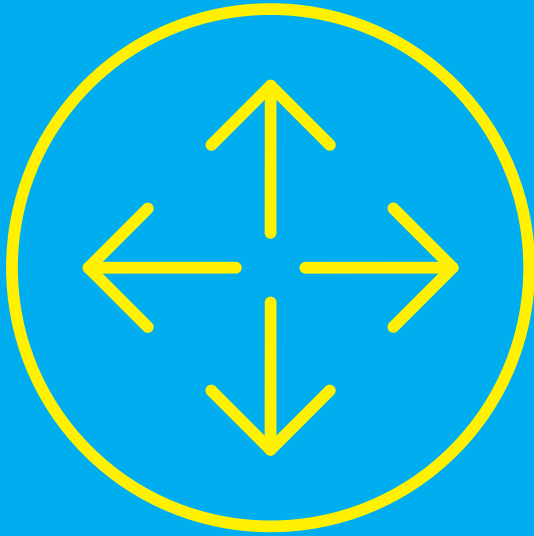
- *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation* by D. A. Carson
- *A Praying Life* by Paul E. Miller



Tips for a regular prayer life

- a. If you like routine, develop a habit of praying once in the morning, and once in the evening. If you dislike routine, make a habit of praying during the quiet moments in your day.
- b. Try and pray whenever you feel anxious.
- c. Pray until you pray. That is, don't wait until you feel 'prayerful'—pray structured prayers (such as the Lord's Prayer) and then keep going until you are praying personally.
- d. Count your blessings. Practise praying with thanksgiving. It changes you!
- e. Pray the Lord's Prayer regularly, taking time to think about what is meant. You will find that, over time, God's priorities will increasingly become your own—i.e. you will want what God wants! Ask him to do this work in you!
- f. When you pray the Lord's Prayer, pray with Christians *and* non-Christians in mind (such as the non-Christians you may work or study with, and your neighbours, friends and family).
- g. Pray regularly for your church (the people, the leaders and the missionaries you support).
- h. Whenever you see a prayer in the Bible, slow down, study it and learn from it.

STUDY 7



BOLD IN MISSION

BOLD IN MISSION



Reflect

1. When I think about telling my friends about Jesus I feel:

TICK ANY THAT APPLY

- Excited
- Nervous
- Energised
- Uninterested
- Passionate
- Inadequate
- Unprepared
- Eager
- Other: _____



Investigate

Read Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV 2011)

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

2. In this passage, Paul is instructing the Christians in Colossae about engaging those who do not know Jesus. These instructions are relevant to all Christians. How are we instructed to pray?

3. The ‘mystery of Christ’ is referring to the revelation about Jesus—the gospel (for more context, read Colossians 1:21-23). What is the content of Paul’s gospel proclamation?

4. Returning to Colossians 4:2-6, describe the different roles involved in the proclamation of Jesus.

Character	Role
The one proclaiming	
God	
Those praying	

8. Use the table below and write a list of people you know who don't follow Jesus. Discuss this with someone to share ideas of how you can look for opportunities to speak about Jesus.

Area of contact	Names	One practical way you could wisely make the most of opportunities to speak about Jesus
Family/relatives		
Friends		
Colleagues/ classmates		
Neighbours		
School/club		
Playground		
Café/eatery/pub		
Those whom you'll try to meet		
Others		

9. Pray for God to grow your concern for mission, that he would open doors with the people you've listed, and for his wisdom and boldness to make the most of these opportunities.



Further reading

Bible passages

- 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
- 1 Peter 3:15-16

Books

- *Honest Evangelism* by Rico Tice
- *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller
- *What Is the Mission of the Church?* by Kevin DeYoung & Greg Gilbert



Glossary

'Outsiders'

Those who do not believe the good news of Jesus.

'Mission'

The particular task of proclaiming Jesus to outsiders. Although this may be associated with a whole variety of activities that contribute to the good of others, the clear focus of mission is in announcing the good news of Jesus.

STUDY 8



LOVING IN SERVICE

LOVING IN SERVICE



Reflect

1. What are the benefits for our church community when we do things for each other?



Investigate

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV 2011)

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

-
2. Peter starts this paragraph by saying 'The end of all things is near.' What is he referring to? To further explore this in context, read 1 Peter 1:3-5. How does this connect the good news of Jesus with this view of our present time?

3. Returning to 1 Peter 4, in verse 7, what is Peter's first instruction? In a passage that says a lot about practical service, why might prayer be an important place to start?

4. Looking at verse 8, what do we learn about the importance of love?

5. Looking at verses 9-11, use the table below to consider the different ways we are instructed to 'love each other deeply'.

Instruction	What this looks like	How it reflects/ relates to/points to God

- 6. Verse 11 summarises the ultimate purpose of serving each other in love. How does this shape the way we serve?



Apply

- 7. Many of us feel that life is full of present concerns. How can this hinder our generosity in service? How does the reminder that ‘the end of all things is near’ help us in serving?

- 8. In a world that is so focused on our individual rights and comfort, how does the encouragement to ‘love each other deeply’ challenge our perspective?



Further reading

Bible passages

- Matthew 5:11-16
- John 15:1-17
- Romans 12:9-21
- 1 John 3:11-18

Books

- *Serving without sinking* by John Hindley
- *Encouragement: How Words Change Lives* by Gordon Cheng
- *Side by Side* by Edward T. Welch



Glossary

‘Love covers over a multitude of sins’

This is a reference to Proverbs 10:12. It is not referring to ‘covering sins’ in the sense that Christ’s death on the cross enables our forgiveness. It is an image of how our love for others overcomes our own sinful selfishness and enables us to bear with the sinfulness of others.

‘Hospitality’

Literally, this means ‘love of the stranger’. The idea originates from welcoming and loving those who are different from ourselves. It can relate to all sorts of ways in which we share hospitality.

‘Speaking’

A simple, general term for speech. This should not be limited to some kind of ‘special’ speech like teaching or preaching or evangelism—it is just the plain, ordinary word for speaking. In today’s world we should also consider how it relates to what we write in emails, social media posts and text messages.

STUDY 9



OVERFLOWING WITH PRAISE

OVERFLOWING WITH PRAISE



Reflect

1. In what ways is it important for our praise of God to be expressed outwardly, and not just remain as inner reflections?

2. Is it necessary to use the word 'praise' when you praise God? Think of some examples of how you might praise God without using the word 'praise'.



Investigate

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV 2011)

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3. For what purpose has God made Christians into a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a special possession?

4. What does this passage suggest should be the special content of the Christian's praise?

Read Psalm 3 (NIV 2011)

A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.

- 3** Lord, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
- ² Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”
- ³ But you, Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.
- ⁴ I call out to the Lord,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.
- ⁵ I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.
- ⁶ I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.
- ⁷ Arise, Lord!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.
- ⁸ From the Lord comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.



Apply

9. Why is it important for Christians to praise God just as regularly and sincerely when life is difficult as when it is easy?

10. If responding to the gospel is to be at the centre of the Christian's praise, what implications does this have for our singing in church?

11. How might our conversations and prayers be 'overflowing with praise'?



Further reading

Bible passages

- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Job 1:13-22

Books

- *Songs of the Saints* by Mike Raiter & Rob Smith
- *Engaging with God* by David Peterson



Glossary

'Hosanna'

This Hebrew word, which literally means 'save us, we pray', is used in the Gospels as a term of praise (see Mark 11:9-10 and Matthew 21:9).

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