

CONFIDENT

6 studies in 1 John



1	Living in the light	1 John 1:1-2:2	Oct 12
2	Love's command	1 John 2:3-2:17	Oct 19
3	Anchored	1 John 2:18-2:27	Oct 26
4	Family likeness	1 John 2:28-3:24	Nov 2
5	Spring of love	1 John 4:1-21	Nov 9
6	Rock solid	1 John 5:1-21	Nov 16

" I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. " 1 John 5:13

TERM 4

confident

To kick off the term we'll delve into the letter of 1 John. I'm sure if you've read the letter before or for that matter any of John's other writings, it can leave your head spinning a little. Fortunately for us though he writes the purpose of the letter, as he begins to draw the letter to a close, check it out:

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

So the last thing John envisions for us is to be confused, quite the opposite, he wants us to be confident! Confident that if we believe in son of God we can be assured we have eternal life. Unfortunately the people John writes to lack that certainty, some from their own number have left them and made claims that have unsettled those that remain. So John writes to them to comfort them, to remind them of what authentic Christianity is. Really John reminds them of the gospel, he reminds them that God so loved the world that he gave us Christ, so that if we believe in him, we will have eternal life. The cross of Christ is the anchor for our souls, so that we might be confident in the face of eternity.

In a world full of lies, I hope you are looking forward to that confident hope from God's words. I can't wait. SP



Stewart Playsted
October 2014

How to LLJ as you study 1 John...

In community

It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

Word to life

When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

Life to word

The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

leadership team

With term 4 upon us, the thoughts of Leadership Team have taken a definite turn towards the future.

One of the great things about being part of the Leadership Team at Southern Cross is that our ministry is enabled by so many others. The pastoral care through our gospel communities and small groups and the service of our ministry teams is all so good it means that the elders can spend the majority of our time discussing, planning and praying about what's coming next rather than being bogged down in maintenance mode.

As part of this planning process each year we get together for a whole day in September and focus on the coming year (preaching plan, equip nights, any changes to staff & ministries etc.) and look to the years beyond. It's exciting stuff and we pray that God will prosper all our plans inasmuch as they are pleasing to him.

Of course, as soon as you read words like "planning" and "changes" you want to know what's behind them – well fair enough!

Broadly speaking our goal is to strengthen our focus around our 2 key purposes – community (loving each other) and mission (loving our friends). We want to make sure that the ways we speak and the ways we're organised all reflect these 2 purposes and all under the one great purpose of worshiping and glorifying Jesus.

To help strengthen our community focus we've recognised the need to equip leaders and members more effectively and we're in the process of developing some training resources for this purpose. Of course, developing resources is one thing while making sure we make the most of them is another! So the next step will be making sure that everyone has the opportunity to work through those resources so we can have the best chance of all pulling together in the same direction. Stay tuned!

Our mission focus is in a really healthy phase at the moment with lots of people reaching out to their friends with the gospel and doing it together. We praise God for the ways that he's working through us and we pray for loving perseverance in what can be a slow process. In addition to these personal efforts in mission we've been considering for a long time whether we should try planting another Sunday gathering as a "front door" for mission. We've been encouraged in this direction by the experience of other churches and by the research that shows that:

"the vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city (Tim Keller).

This doesn't mean that church planting is a "silver bullet" or that it's not hard work. But it does mean we need to give it serious consideration which is what we're currently in the process of doing.

There a few other things on the drawing board but we'll hold those back for Vision Sunday.

The SCPC leadership team is...



Akos Balogh



Wayne Brooks



Matt Crosthwaite



David McDonald



Jon Mison



Stewart Playsted



Pete Thompson

committee of management

The Committee of Management serves our church by ensuring that our buildings and finances are used for carrying out our mission statement: **connect. grow. serve.** They do this by:

- communicating** financial goals for carrying out our mission statement
- encouraging** the church to give generously towards reaching these goals
- giving opportunity** for people to give towards these goals
- managing** the buildings and finances to fulfil these goals

Dear Church Family,

It continues to be encouraging to see how God has been at work in and through our church. We have been hearing from God's word of the big story and how He has had plans a foot from before the world was created. We also hold onto the hope we have in Christ, we have the opportunity to see God's plans unfolding and our hearts being transformed. It has been encouraging to hear the stories of God at work. He gave us much to rejoice about on Celebration Sunday in September.

We do rejoice at the generous heart that He is growing in our SCPC family as people have responded to the challenge from Vision Sunday last year to double their giving in 2014. We saw in August our giving for 2014 surpass our total annual giving for 2013 and we press on to meet the budget before the end of the year and maximise our surplus in preparation for gospel ministry in 2015 and beyond. We thank you for your faithful trusting in our Lord and investing in matters that have eternal value.

Each year COM members are allocated a ministry team with whom they liaise and report back to COM on things financial. Over the next few weeks they will be meeting with the various ministry team leaders to discuss expected expenditure in 2015. On October 22 the COM will meet to draft the annual budget for 2015. Which will be presented to the Congregation in early 2015. We ask that you pray for us. On your behalf we want to be godly stewards of the resources that our God had provided us with.

We are thankful for the overflowing of generosity beyond weekly giving and towards the Common Fund. The Common Fund has been able to assist some of our church attend ministry training events, subsidize some young people to attend Safari, whilst helping others participate in Youth Conventions and NCCC Women's event. A number of people with pressing financial difficulties have been assisted with food and accommodation expenses whilst another has been provided with finances to seek professional counselling. These are indeed examples of love expressed.

It is a privilege to be a COM member and to help our church use our resources wisely. If you ever have any questions we ask you to catch up with a COM member on either Sundays or by contacting them during the week.

In Christ's service

Jenni Dann

On behalf of your COM

"Be devoted to another in brotherly love.
Honour one another above yourselves". Romans 12:10



Electronic Funds Transfer details...
Commonwealth Bank,
Lismore
Account: Southern Cross Presbyterian Church
BSB: 06 2674
Account number: 28009463

The SCPC STOPOMETER!
@ 31st August 2014

2014 target: \$520 000
2014 progress: \$277 952

2014 committee of management

Leadership team PLUS...



Dylan Brooks



Jillian Coutts



Jenni Dann



Dave Kemsley



Louise Maxwell



Scott Patch



Steve Tilley



Mum & Me Time meets each Tuesday of school term at our Park Ave building from 10-11:30am. If the weather is good we set up lots of toys, tables of craft, chairs for mums & peel off the sandpit cover so that our 20 or so kids (0-5yrs) can have a great morning together!



God has continued to bless our time together on Tuesday mornings. We've had some new babies born, new mum's join with us, and lots of sunny days outside in the sandpit! We have been doing craft and singing time based on the idea that "God made my body" and it's been great to teach this basic truth to the kids.

We have been able to keep building on some deepening relationships with our regular non-church mums, with one even commenting that the reason she likes our group so much is it's spiritual basis (pretty amazing coming from a non christian!).

We have been super encouraged by the commitment of the "new mums" from church to coming along each week who join in the fun and the opportunity to serve together as we spur each other on in the tiring, but rewarding task, of being a mum.



Micah Maxwell

Victoria Kemsley

Xavier Balogh

Amelia Coutts

Keziah Brooks

Please be praying for us:

- wisdom for making decisions for 2015: we are considering starting a second morning of mum & me time
- please ask God that we will take the opportunities He gives us to talk to our friends about Him
- thank God for our mentors (Ailsa and Bronwyn M)



kids church



term 4 2014

celebrating 16 years of kids church @ southern cross

www.sepc.org.au



A gospel partnership

Dear parents and carers,

For the last 5 years I have been the 'kid's coordinator' at Southern Cross which has been an awesome privilege. Even though I now change roles as 'families' pastor' with a large component of that being the 'youth coordinator', a gospel partnership will continue. I will continue to meet and support Lyn, as she takes on the role of 'kid's coordinator'. This partnership will include the recruitment and training of leaders for kid's ministry, continuing to think through gospel centred kids resources, and training.

However Lyn will soon take on the vast majority of the tasks related to kids at Southern Cross but over the last 5 years as 'kid's coordinator', she has been a terrific supporter of me in that role. So it was in many ways a simple task to find someone to replace me. For Lyn is godly, winsome, creative, generous and humble. As I write this with tears in my eyes, I am sure you would agree with me that the ministry we partner with you in raising kids who follow Jesus, is in safe hands with Lyn, as she trusts in our mighty God.

Stew Playsted

general info...

- please ensure kids have a hat, sunscreen and appropriate footwear for any outdoor activities.
- we continue to support our GMP's (The Scotts , McDonalds , Rachael and Linda), through regular prayer and financially through the weekly collection taken.

southern cross presbyterian church
connect. grow. serve.

YOUTH

It's been a great term at youth, we traced the story of the bible from beginning, learning heaps about how it all fits together, we played a life size game of Angry Birds and we even had a crack at making our own half hour mini movie. In term 4, we'll be doing a topical series called 'Taboo', where we'll look at a bunch of topics that are off limits - stuff that we rarely ever talk about, but really need to if we want to live our whole live for Jesus.



Key term 4 dates

- 17 Oct - YC One @ Alstonville Baps
- 21 Nov - Minute to Win It Challenge (parents invited)
- 12 Dec - Yearly Breakup @ GSAC



Global Mission Partners



Jenni Dann

What GC do you represent & who is your mission partner?

I represent the Robert's GC. And Rachael working in Eurasia is our mission partner

Why did you want to be a GMP Team member?

My reasons for wanting to become a GMP Team member are really a testimony of how our God can use any circumstance in our lives to further His kingdom work and bring glory to Him and that He calls us to trust in His good and right plans for our lives. I became a Christian in my 20's but I believe that before then, God was at work in my life in different ways, including planting a seed in my heart for over sea's people. In my late teens I was really blessed in my senior high school years to have a teacher who encouraged me to consider ways to respond to the needs of people beyond Australia. Then after finishing Year 12, I had a great opportunity to live overseas, independent of my family for 12 months, in a country where I did not speak the language when I arrived.

So with this overseas focus and experience it was just natural, on becoming a Christian a few years later, to have a real desire for all people to hear the gospel, not just in Australia but all over the world. This desire has stayed with me. At different times I have thought of working overseas for God and have found myself asking Him why He hasn't planned this for me. However, I see that God actually has made a way for me to be part of His mission outside of Australia. Although I am not living overseas, as part of SCPC, whilst living in East Lismore, being mum, wife and part time midwife, He has given me the opportunity to indeed do global mission as I partner with Him, my church at SCPC and with our Global Mission Partners.

I feel blessed that God has provided me with some insight into the huge sacrifice that our GMP's make to take the gospel to a country where the culture is so different to our own here in Australia and where english is not the first language of the locals there. Because I personally experienced how hard it was to live in a different culture and to learn a second language, and especially to try and communicate in this second language with people at a deep level, I am motivated to love and support our GMP's.

And because we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, one large global family, one body I feel that our GMP's are but one part of the body, and I am another, all working together for our Lord. So I can be content that at this time in my life I am involved in global mission as I have the privilege of being a GMP Team member where I am able to encourage my church to see that we all play a role in global mission, even if our day to day life is here in Lismore and that supporting our GMP's is part of doing that.

What is the role of a GMP team member within their GC?

My role is to help my GC work out real ways we can encourage and support Rachel and actually do it.

What is an example of partnership your GC has done this year?

The ways we have partnered with Rachel have been shaped in part by the fact that being in a different time zone by nearly half a day makes using Skype as a GC is a bit tricky and although emails do seem to get through often the response is delayed and we have to be careful about not using "Christian" words in our communication so as not to jeopardise her visa. Because of this we have tended to rely on Rachel's newsletters and pray for matters she raises in them. In addition to this it was a particular privilege earlier this year to receive additional emails, requesting prayer for specific individuals in God's church in Eurasia. We have sought to encourage Rachel with gifts and emails on her birthday and will plan the same for Christmas. A couple of our GC, who are ok with using "safe wording" have written emails to Rachel, as you would do to a good friend, letting her know what has been happening in their lives. And recently it was so encouraging to get her email for Celebration Sunday with birthday wishes encouraging her family @ SCPC to stand firm, along with the photos of our Eurasian brothers and sisters in Christ being baptised in a local lake near her town.

TAIWAN Short Term Mission Trip



Over September the team was busily preparing for Taiwan with such things as Language classes, Taiwanese food cooking and eating, ministry preparation nights, and a team bonding retreat getaway.

There were a number of Skype sessions and many many emails sent back and forth from Lismore and Taiwan clarifying the trip and getting better prepared. We have now finally come to the time to **GO!**

Our flights are booked, our passports are in hand, our tastebuds have been tested, our language is bad but we are still ready to say 'Ni Hao' (hello) to anyone with ears to hear, our schedule confirmed, our desire to grow partnership is strong, **WE ARE READY!** While we are on the trip please remember that we are you and you are us. We are all one Church. So please pray for us as we are being sent out from you as representatives of SCPC.

To keep up with our trip why not pick up our daily prayer schedule from the serve table and check out the daily blog on the website or fb. Also when we return we will have a info night open to all on Thursday the 30th of October at the Church office.

EC @ Uni

Well, it's hard to believe that we're almost at the end of another year at Southern Cross Uni!

Time has gone so fast, but it has been a very fruitful year, in so many ways. It has been the year of trying new initiatives, and not being afraid to fail. After all, God is Sovereign, and He can use our meagre efforts to grow His gospel on campus.

One initiative we kicked off was 'Socrates on Campus': a discussion group to get students thinking about the deeper issues of 'Life, Meaning, and other Small Questions'. Although we didn't get a big uptake of students (unfortunately SCU doesn't have a Philosophy department!), we did get one student ('A'), who has stuck with us the whole time...and who enjoyed the discussions so much, that he wants to make Socrates an official club, with a lot more presence on campus. It really was fascinating hearing his views on issues of morality, meaning, and life...and being able to share with him the Christian worldview. It was a great reminder that without God, 'anything is permissible' (to quote a Dostoyevsky novel), and that so much of what we take for granted in our Western view of right/wrong has a Christian basis.

We also launched our 'Mission Team' initiative, whereby we aimed to get EC students to be deliberate about praying for, and spending time with, their non-Christian friends and classmates. From this, God gave us another non-Christian student, 'J'...who comes from a Church background, but was not a believer. Interestingly enough, 'J' just loved the wider EC community, and came along religiously to our EC Word teaching time on Wednesday nights, where I preached through the book of Romans. Whilst 'J' hasn't yet become a Christian, we would love your prayers for him, particularly as he heads out to a rural country town to work...(in which there is a great evangelical church!).

Overall, it was a year of much growth in Ecers being more outwardly focussed, and our aim (under God) is for this culture to build, over Summer, 2015, and beyond.



Outgoing EC president Dan Kirk contemplates EC's future.



EC students doing their best to recreate 'The last supper' painting by Leonardo DaVinci at the EC Italian Themed Formal end of year dinner

Please pray:

- Thank God for the willingness of EC students to try new things, and leave their comfort zone, for the sake of the gospel;
- Please pray for the non-Christian student who came along to Socrates on Campus, 'A', that he might continue thinking about the large issues of life, and see that life is unliveable without God;
- Please pray for 'J', that he might come to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and join a great church in his new locality.

BLOKES go beef



Oct 24-25



Speaker: Dan Biggs

Two things Dan loves are the great outdoors and a good steak. Dan loves the bush, hunting, fishing, riding and mountain climbing were all part of his life growing up in regional QLD and Northern NSW. Regarding steak, a decade of butchery in Brisbane more than qualifies Dan as the man to have around if there's a bbq going down and meat to cook.

Dan is married with four children and currently heads up the ministry team at Acacia Ridge Presbyterian church in Brisbane. Dan welcomes every opportunity he can get o head out of the city and is looking forward to sharing life and meat and Jesus at our 'blokes go beef'...

EQUIP 4: MARRIED for LIFE



How to get
from
HERE
←
to
HERE
→
and
ENJOY
everything
in between



Saturday 8th Nov 1-5pm @ LHS

VISION Sunday



CAROLS

sunday 21st
6pm @ LHS



getting the most out of these bible studies

- READ the relevant passage **before** the Sunday talk. Wrestling with God’s Word for yourself before hearing the talk will lead to getting much more out of both.
- Have a go at the PREPARATION questions **before** your small group or DNA group. This will put you in a better position to serve others in your group as you tackle the DISCUSSION questions together. If everyone in the group prepares in this way, it will be easier to dig deeper, and to devote more time to application and prayer.
- PRAY for those teaching the Word; for those leading small groups or gospel communities; for other members of your group; and for yourself—that your attitude will be focused on serving others, and growing in knowing and loving Jesus our Lord.



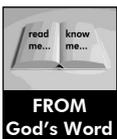
Kick off

this question just gets us talking about the broad subject of the study before we see what God’s word says about it.



Big idea

gives a ‘ballpark’ sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It’s great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



FROM God’s Word

draws out what the Bible text is actually saying. Stay looking at the Bible as you answer them, & refer to verses in your answer.



TO my life

is where the rubber hits the road: applying it to our lives. Doing studies linked to the Sunday talks allows more time to be devoted to this vital step.



Prayer

is a key part of how we respond to listening to God in his word together—by talking to him together. It’s a key part of our ministry to each other.



Discussion

Having done the hard work in preparation, these questions will help you dig into the real life application of God’s word to your heart as you meet together to spur one another on in loving like Jesus.



Your story

The king of kings Jesus, is the hero of our story!

If he’s the hero of our “big” story, then doesn’t it make sense for him to be the hero of all our little stories too?

Last term we got together each week to hear more of “THE story” and gave some thought how ‘the story’ shapes our everyday life with Jesus as the hero.

This term in the ‘Jesus is our super hero’ section, we recall a few of these stories from our church community.



You might have played the ice breaker game called ‘two truths and a lie’. It’s where you get to share three interesting stories from your life and yet one of the stories is a complete lie. The others in the group need to decide which is true and which is a lie.

This term we all get to play with different members of our DNA’s and small groups, taking their turn each week. It will be up to the rest of us to work out which is true and which is a lie. Hopefully over first part of the term you’ll find out some truly interesting stories from those you’re living life with!

Though more than that we’ll be helping each other to be confident in the truth contained in God’s word, so we can better identify the lies. So after you’ve heard from them about their truth and lies, have them speak about ways they have been tempted to believe the sorts of things the first readers of 1 John were perhaps facing. Then together remind each other of the truth from 1 John, so you can be confident of the things you believe that lead to true and everlasting life.



Coming up

reminds us that we’re part of a church family, and that there are many other opportunities to meet together and spur one another on.



Family discussion

provides a question for a family to discuss together and an opportunity to share with our children what we are learning.



Reading ahead

gives you a reminder of what’s coming up next week. You’ll serve your group well by preparing for the study. For study 1 read Genesis 1-2.

1

living in the light



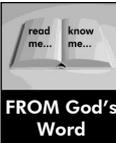
What is the longest time you've been stuck in a 'blackout'? What was it like?



Life is found in fellowship with God and with his people as we turn together from the darkness of sin to live in the light of the gospel. Are you living in the light?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



Read 1 John 1:1-2:2

1. Who do you think the 'we' is referring to? What (or who) is being proclaimed?

2. What makes them qualified to speak about it?

3. What is the purpose of their proclamation?

4. What are the signs and characteristics of a life that is being lived in the light?

5. Does sin compromise your life in the light? Why/Why not?

6. What do you find hard about confessing sin?



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

A number of people within church wanting to financially and otherwise help members of the short term mission trip team so they could go on the trip.

The Thomas' moving from Casino to Lismore so they could be more involved in Gospel Community life.

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 1 & 2**



discussion

1. "God is light; in him there is no darkness" Discuss?
2. Are you a liar (see 1 John 1:6-8)? How often do you confess your sin?
3. Are your emotions stirred by the knowledge that 'we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense'? Why/Why not?

2 truths
&
a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

Continually confessing sin is unnecessary and bad for your self-esteem.

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



coming up



Oct 7	Mum & Me time
Oct 7	Restart T4
Oct 10	Youth starts
Oct 13	GMP leave for Taiwan
Oct 17	YC One-Alstonville Baptist
Oct 19	Partnering with parents-youth

CONFIDENT



"Where, except in uncreated light, can the darkness be drowned?"

C.S. Lewis

pray also for our
prayer partner:



Please pray for millions of our brothers & sisters in Christ, from all over the world who are persecuted for their faith. Pray for God's strength, courage, and HOPE in the midst of pain & suffering. That they will be able to STAND FIRM.



family
discussion

Is a time to confess sin a regular part of your family life? Why/Why not?



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 John 2:3-2:17

2

love's command



Recall a time when you've been commanded to do something, either as a child or adult? How did it make you feel?



We know Christ when we obey his commands and love his people rather than being in love with the world.

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



FROM God's Word

Read 1 John 2:3-17

1. What does John say is the evidence of whether we truly know God?
2. Why is saying 'I know him' not enough?
3. In what sense is John's command in verse 6 old and in what sense is it new (see verses 7-8)?
4. According to verses 9-11, what does it actually look like to 'walk as Jesus did' (verse 6) and 'live in the light' (verse 10)?
5. John is not trying to undermine the assurance of genuine Christians. In fact he's trying to point them to the evidence that their faith is real. According to verses 12-14, what are the truths that remind the believer of the unshakeable nature of their faith?
6. According to verses 15-17, it's not WHETHER we love but WHAT we love that matters. What kind of love is at odds with loving God? Why?
7. This passage clearly says that the genuineness of our faith will be shown by whether we love like Jesus (LLJ). What evidence can you see in your own life that you LLJ? What do you need to repent of?
8. This passage also clearly says that loving the world or anything in the world is contrary to LLJ. In what ways is love for the world compromising or even jeopardizing your salvation?



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

Seeing our gospel community love a young family who has recently returned to the area. It's great to see the way that the couple have grown in their desire to see the gospel penetrate every single area of their life, including where they live and the way they relate to and discipline their kids.



TO my life

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 2**



discussion

1. Can a command to love ever foster genuine love?
2. Describe a time in the last week when you've failed to LLJ?
3. Are there times when you question the reality of your faith? Where do you find confidence in those times of doubt?
4. When are you tempted to love the world? Which do you find you struggle with more; cravings, lust or boasting?

2 truths
&
a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

***"I love God just fine, its other Christians
I'm not that interested in"***

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



coming up



Partnering with
parents-youth

Oct 17
Oct 19
Oct 22
Oct 24-25
Oct 29
Oct 30
Nov 5
Nov 8

YC One-Alstonville Baptist
Partnering with parents-youth
Committee of Management
Blokes go Beef
GC leader's meeting
An evening with Taiwan Team
Preaching group
SATURDAY Equip 4



family
discussion

How can you as a family grow to not just perform loving actions, but ensure loves motivates them all?



"If your definition of 'love' stresses affectionate feelings more than unselfish actions, you will cripple your ability to maintain and grow strong love relationships."

Tim Keller

Please pray for Our short term mission team in Taiwan-Mark, Lucy, Estelle, Steve, Alice & Dan,

Pray also for leaders of youth as they partner with parents in raising Godly teens. Pray for year 6 as they join the youth for the first time.

Thank God for the opportunity for the 'blokes' to hear God's word from Dan Biggs at 'Blokes go beef'.



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 John 2:18-2:27



What is an issue you're known for standing your ground on?



The Holy Spirit anchors us to the Son and connects us to the rich life of God. Will you remain or be led astray?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



FROM God's Word

Read 1 John 2:18-27

1. "The Antichrist" is often thought of as one dominant mythical figure. How does John's definition differ?
2. As In using the term 'antichrists', do you think that John has all unbelievers in mind? What is it that distinguishes a true believer, from an antichrist?
3. If Christ is denied, what other relationships are severed?
4. What is the benefit to those who continue in what they've heard?
5. How does 'the anointing' believers receive help them to remain in Christ?
6. What role do you believe the Holy Spirit plays in the life of the believer? Why?
7. Would you describe your life as one of rich communion with the triune God? Why/Why not?



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

One of the men from our church who after cooking and cleaning the meat on celebration Sunday, was asking how he could help with blokes go beef!!



TO my life

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 2**



discussion

1. Do you think being lukewarm towards Jesus is OK? Do you ever accept it in yourself or in others?
2. Christ-centered preaching must be double-edged – asserting the truth of the gospel to be believed and warning against lies which are to be rejected. Discuss?
3. Apart from the Holy Spirit's work within you, what preventative measures do you have in place to ensure that 'what you heard from the beginning' remains in you?
4. What would be the warning signs if you were being lead astray?

2 truths
&
a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

A simple belief in God is adequate for the Christian life.

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



coming up



Taiwan evening

Oct 22	Committee of Management
Oct 24-25	Blokes go Beef
Oct 29	GC leader's meeting
Oct 30	An evening with Taiwan Team
Nov 5	Preaching group
Nov 8	SATURDAY Equip 4
Nov 12	GMP team



family
discussion

'See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you'. What are you doing to make sure this is happening in your family?



"Christian theology is anchored not only to certain historical events culminating in the saving career of Jesus, but to the authoritative apostolic witness to, and the interpretation of, these events. The Christian can never weigh anchor and launch out into the deep of speculative thought."

John Stott

pray for prayer partner:

REAL-Mark Joosse-Lismore High, Michelle Atherton-Richmond River High, Katie Watts-Kadina High, Peter Young-Richmond River & Mullumbimby.

Pray that the messages of HOPE & of Christ's love will begin to impact the high school students. Pray that each seed planted in their hearts will grow up to salvation. Thank God for the many opportunities & pray that the funding for REAL will continue in 2015 and beyond.



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 John 2:28-3:24

4

family likeness



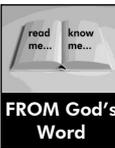
What do people comment the most about your family likeness?



Children of God should fight sin and flourish in love for their brothers and sisters following the love of their Saviour. Do you know what love is?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



Read 1 John 2:28-3:24

1. How does someone become a child of God?

2. Why is sin inappropriate for a child of God?

3. If unrestrained sin is to be absent from the life of God's children, what should dominate it instead?

4. Was John opposed to love being expressed in words? What might he be responding to, in his call for loving action?

5. What are some of the sure signs that God lives in his children?

6. Are you ever tempted to domesticate sin as just an inevitable reality of life in this fallen world? How has John warnings helped to remind you of dangers of allowing sin to continue unchecked?

7. How do you respond when a christian friend shares with you trials they are facing in their life? What should you be aiming for in such a conversation?



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

So many people in our church community week after week serving each other willingly, and with joy, in seemingly mundane task such as washing & wiping up, putting out garbage & sweeping floors etc...



TO my life

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 2 & 3**



discussion

1. Are you longing for the day when 'we shall see him as he is'? Why/Why not?
2. A battle with sin jeopardizes the standing of a child of God. Discuss.
3. 'And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers'. Is genuine love a feature of your life?
4. Loving one another is evidence that God lives in us. Do your non-Christian friends comment on your loving relationships with other Christians? If not, what does this tell you and what can you do about it?



"Love is a topic broached repeatedly. It's easy to understand why. When differences arise within a community, hard feelings can be the result. Enmity has been a feature of human social existence since early on, and Christian groups are not immune to its ugliness."

Robert Yarbrough

2 truths & a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

"Love has to be give and take or else it's not real love."

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...

Please pray for

Families-that they will take the opportunities to talk & pray about issues raised through the study; and grow closer together.

Pray for those who are **single**, & may feel alone, that they will find reason to be joyful because of God's grace in the midst of loneliness & trials.

Pray also for strong **marriages** and our Equip 4 as we seek to learn what it looks like to have a godly marriage for life.



coming up



EQUIP 4

Nov 5
Nov 8
Nov 12
Nov 23
Nov 26

Preaching group
SATURDAY Equip 4
GMP team
VISION SUNDAY
leadership team



family discussion

As a family write down a list of the needs of those in your GC/SG and what you could do to meet them.



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 John 4:1-21

5

spring of love



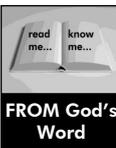
What is the most loving thing someone has ever done for you?



The Holy Spirit not only affirms the reality of Jesus' character, but also fosters his love within us. Do you believe people can see God?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



Read 1 John 3:24-4:21

1. What distinguishes the Spirit of God from the spirit of the antichrist?
2. What is the relationship between God's love and our love?
3. What is the most remarkable feature of God's love?
4. What are the markings of our communion with God?
5. What does it mean that "perfect love casts out all fear"? How does this work in practice?
6. Who do you find it hard to love? What does this reveal? How can you grow in love?
7. Are there times in your life when you fear God? Is that a good thing or a bad thing?



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

Over the winter months, many ladies in our church making & donating yummy soups for our night time members to enjoy. Consequently, over \$700 was raised for the work of the Lismore Soup kitchen, who support the most needy in our Lismore



Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 3 & 4**



1. Southern Cross is a Spirit-filled church". Do you agree? How do you know?
2. Has anyone seen God, by the way you love?
3. What would be the result if we tried to love purely from our own resources?
4. Do you see the needs of your brothers and sisters? Do you do anything about them? Does it matter if you don't?



"The unseen God who once revealed himself in his Son, now reveals himself in his people, if and when, they love one another."

John Stott

2 truths & a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

Christian love is no different to the love of other people.

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...

pray for our prayer partner: Marshall & Julie, Daniel, Bill & Douglas Scott with CMS

Thank God for the relationships that were formed at a recent summer camp where kids heard bible stories of creation, the fall & the gospel for the first time. Pray for ongoing English lessons for disadvantaged kids. Thank God for continued improvement in Bill's health. Pray as Marshall and Julie seek to build relationships with people in the Daste markets & to share Bible stories



coming up

Nov 8	SATURDAY Equip 4
Nov 12	GMP team
Nov 23	VISION SUNDAY
Nov 26	leadership team
Dec 3	committee of management

VISION SUNDAY



family discussion

Write down ways you could love your brothers and sisters in ways that unbelievers could see?



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 John 5:1-21



What experiences, places or relationships have provided your life with the most stability?



Jesus is the rock solid foundation who brings understanding, a knowledge of the truth and eternal life. Do you know what is true?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



FROM God's Word

Read 1 John 5:1-21

1. How can we express love for God?
2. What does the 'testimony of God' affirm?
3. What other benefits does the stability of belief in Jesus bring?
4. From verse 16 what do you understand to be the sin that leads to death?
5. As with the earlier chapters, John is not implying that a Christian doesn't sin. What do you think he is saying in verse 18?
6. How does a complete knowledge of the triune God (Father, Son & Spirit), benefit the children of God?
7. How does our world respond to the claim that true life can only be found in Jesus? How do you respond to this claim about Jesus?
8. John recorded his purpose for writing in verse 13, has it been successful for you?



TO my life



Jesus is our everyday hero

your story

A man in church brought a new trailer and is really excited to add it to the common so people in church can borrow it.

Someone, who is new to our church, was going past Park Ave church and noticed the lawn needed mowing. SO he mowed it!

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **1 John 5**



discussion

1. Do you know you have eternal life? How?
2. How can you help each other to maintain a rock solid commitment to Jesus?
3. We know and serve the true God. What are some dangers or idols that might lead you astray from him?

2 truths
&
a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

All religions lead to God and it's arrogant to say otherwise

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



coming up

**VISION
SUNDAY**

Nov 12	GMP team
Nov 23	VISION SUNDAY
Nov 26	leadership team
Dec 3	committee of management
Dec 8-19	Carols letter drop
Dec 21	carols & Lismore high



family
discussion

How can your family celebrate that you have Jesus and so live in such a way that helps your friends to know Jesus too?



"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you."

C.S. Lewis

Please pray

Thank God for our youth leaders and their commitment to the youth. Pray that they will have a deep desire to see their group grow & mature in Christ.

Pray for kid's church team and our kids. Pray that they will desire to know more about God and his ways and not be led astray by the world's lies.



read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Song of Songs 1:1-2:7



"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves."
Victor Hugo

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **Song of songs 8**.



discussion

1. "How concerned are you for the sexual purity of your friends? How do you encourage them? Why are love and jealousy so closely related?"
2. If you're married, do you take time to talk with your spouse about how you're marriage is going and what you could do to improve it?
3. Choose one thing you've learnt from Song of Songs that you'd like to discuss with your spouse and make a time to do it.

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie. Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

2 truths & a lie

Marriage is the ultimate relationship

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



prayer



Dec 16
Dec 8-19
Dec 21
Dec 25

Mum & me Christmas party
Carols letter drop
Carols & Lismore high
Christmas service



coming up



family discussion

See how many reasons you can come up with for why marriage is one of God's best ideas.

Song of Songs

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...
read ahead

I want to know what love is



Name as many songs as you can that describe what "love is..."?



Love is so essential to life because it brings us closest to understanding what God is like – passionate, committed, jealous, strong & eternal. Our love is at its best when it reflects God's love



Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.

Read Song of Songs 8:5-14



1. This final passage of the song is much more reflective and contemplative than the breathless chapters that have come before it. As lover and beloved reminisce, what do their words reveal they have discovered about love?

2. What is the goal of those who speak in verses 8-9? How does it fit in with the rest of the song?

3. In verses 10-12 the beloved compares herself to Solomon. What has she discovered about love?

4. Look at the footnote for verse 6 and the alternative translation for "like a mighty flame". What does it mean that love burns "like the very flame of the Lord"?

Read Revelation 21:1-4

5. How does this image help us to understand what God has in store for his beloved? In what ways is it better than the love that we've seen portrayed in the Song of Songs?

6. Who is more content in love: Solomon with his many "tenants" or the beloved who has given her heart to just one? How does this challenge the modern portrayal of love and sex?

7. What lessons in love have you learnt over the course of your life? How do they compare to the discoveries of the beloved?



A kid's church team member who gave up her time to spend time in the classroom of one of her kid's church girls so she could get ideas on how to better help her learn and so be more able to teach her about Jesus!!



Jesus is our hero everyday

Discussion Questions
 Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at **Song of songs 3-8**

1. Do you think it's reasonable to expect a marriage to retain the passion of the wedding night as the years roll by?



discussion

2. What are some of the great dangers of being in love?

"Marriage may be the closest thing to Heaven or Hell any of us will know on this earth."
 Edwin Louis Cole

3. How can we be wise about love without giving up on it altogether?

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie.

2 truths & a lie

Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

Marriage is the ultimate relationship

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...



prayer



Dec 16
 Dec 8-19
 Dec 21
 Dec 25

Mum & me Christmas party
 Carols letter drop
 Carols & Lismore high
 Christmas service



What can you do as a family to help strengthen the marriages of your friends?



Pray for our Prayer partners: James & Jasmin Ritchie



Thank God for new beginnings! Pray for James & Jasmin Ritchie as they finish their time here with us at SPC and head to college-QTC in Brisbane & ministry with St Anne's Presbyterian Church in Brisbane City.

Song of songs 8:5-14

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...
read ahead





- 6. What does it take to maintain love and passion in a marriage?
- 7. Why is it a good idea to not be in love with the idea of being in love?

Read 1 Kings 11:1-6

- 5. Does it strike you as odd that Solomon should be dispensing advice on love? Why should we listen?

- 3. Compare the words of the lover in 5:1 to what he says in 7:1-9. What has he learnt?
- 4. But just as the passion of love increases, so does the potential for pain. In 5:2-8 we are once again confronted by the darker side of love. What went wrong between the lover and his beloved?

- 2. Lover & Beloved are clearly infatuated with one another and their love finds full expression on their wedding night. Other than descriptions of her appearance, what else do we learn about the beloved in chapter 4?



Read Song of Songs 3:6-8:4

- 1. This passage begins with an account of a wedding. Who is getting married?



have you ever been rejected by someone you love? What words would you use to describe the experience?



Humanity has an amazing ability to take God's good gifts and distort them for evil use. Being in love and making love are a prime example.

too much love will kill you

Jesus is our everyday hero



your story

A 14 year old boy who genuinely gets the gospel, makes efforts for his friends to know Jesus and has even initiated a couple of difficult conversations with another Christian boy who was struggling to hang in there as a Christian at school.

Preparation Questions
Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at Song of Songs 2&3

1. What is it that makes love such a dangerous business?



discussion

2. Do the threats to love – the “little foxes” – change much according to era and culture or do they remain pretty much the same?

3. What light does this exploration of romantic love shed on the nature of God’s love for us?

4. What are some good ways we can help each other to avoid the painful side of love?



“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”
C.S. Lewis

2 truths & a lie

Have someone in your group share ‘two truths and a lie’ about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three ‘facts’ is a lie. Now have them answer whether they’ve ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

The grass is always greener on the other side

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.

Pray for one another in response to what you’ve learnt from God’s word...



Letter box drop



- Dec 3
- Dec 8-19
- Dec 16
- Dec 21
- Dec 25

- committee of management
- Carols letter drop
- Mum & me Christmas party
- carols & Lismore high
- Christmas service



Why do you think people who love each other sometimes hurt each other?

Song of Songs 3:6-8:4

read ahead

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...



- 6. Have you experienced the flipside of love's pleasure? What was it like and how did it change you?
- 7. What "little foxes" pose a threat in your vineyard or in the vineyards of your friends? What do you need to do about them?
- 8. How are the hopes of 2:8-14 related to the fears of 3:1-3?
- 9. In 3:5 the beloved returns to the chorus of the song. What new reason have we encountered in this passage to handle love with care?

A lady from my GC recently started walking group, followed by brekky each Saturday morning with the purpose of mission. Myself and others were able to invite a couple of unbelieving friends along and I was encouraged by how the ladies took a genuine interest in each other's friends.



Jesus is our everyday hero

- 3. 3:1-3 may describe a dream or reality (or both) but whatever the case there's clearly an abrupt change in the mood of the song. What are the events that cause it?
- 2. But it seems that spring time is also a time of danger. Verse 15 refers to "little foxes that ruin the vineyards". What do you think this might be referring to?



Read Song of Songs 2:8-3:5

- 1. This passage starts on a very positive note as lover and beloved are reunited after a time apart. What is the setting for the scene and where does it seem to be heading?

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.



Can you think of a love story that didn't include an element of pain or suffering?



The same things that can make love such a pleasure also mean that love can cause great pain. Yet another reason to handle love with great care.

2 love & other bruises

Discussion Questions

Choose ONE of the following questions that you particularly wish to discuss when you gather with others. Prepare a thorough answer. Have your Bible open at Song of songs 1&2



discussion

1. What is the difference between "allegory" and "poetry"? Which of the two is the best description of Song of Songs?

2. How does reading the Song of Songs make you feel? Why do you think you feel this way?

3. From your experience and reflecting on what you've read in Song of Songs, what different challenges concerning love and sex arise at different ages and stages of life?

4. Discuss this question among friends of the same gender: what needs to change in your attitudes or behaviour in the areas of love and sex?



"the marriage act is the symbol or culmination of a more complete oneness, of a total giving of yourself to another person. Consequently, if the more complete oneness is not a reality, sex loses its meaning"
Wayne Mack

2 truths & a lie

Have someone in your group share 'two truths and a lie' about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which of the three 'facts' is a lie. Now have them answer whether they've ever been tempted to believe the following lie and why?

If it feels right, it can't be wrong

Now share together the truth (or truths) that address this lie.



prayer

Pray for one another in response to what you've learnt from God's word...

Please pray for Prayer partner Rachael in Eurasia Pray for easing of laws to allow foreigners to remain in Eurasia. Praise and thank God for Shamil who after one year of meeting, now says he is a believer. Thank God that Azalia has recognized she needs God's help to forgive her family.& to help them know him too. Pray for continued language skills.



Nov 23
Nov 26
Dec 3
Dec 8-19
Dec 16
Dec 21
Dec 25

VISION SUNDAY
leadership team
committee of management
Carols letter drop
Mum & me Christmas party
carols & Lismore high
Christmas service

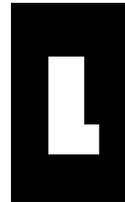


Write a list of the key ingredients of a good marriage

For Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...
read ahead

Song of Songs 2:8-3:5

crazy little thing called love



Think of a time when love clouded your better judgment and led you down a dangerous path.



We're crazy if we think that love is a "little thing". For the right people at the right time love and sexual intimacy are a delightful gift from God but in the wrong hands they can be devastating dynamite. Love should be labeled "handle with care".



Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own in preparation for your time with others.

Read Song of Songs 1:1-2:7



1. The first verse of the Song identifies Solomon as the author. The NIV translators have referred to him as the "lover" in the song. What do you know about Solomon from the rest of the Bible?

2. This is a love song that pulls no punches! How would you describe the beloved's intentions at the beginning of the song?

3. What is the beloved's view of herself? In contrast, how does the lover see her?

4. By the end of the passage, what has happened? How do you know?

5. Having made love, what thoughts are in the mind of the beloved as she lies in the arms of her lover?

6. Whether you're married or unmarried, what encouragements AND warnings about love and sex do you find in this passage?



7. It's clear that God is not coy about sex! In what ways is God's view of sex as displayed in this passage different from (and so much better than) many of the common attitudes towards sex in our culture?

A young man who was in need... had nowhere to live and no money- Steve T offered him a place to live and Katie organised people to get some money together to buy him some groceries.



TERM 4

Welcome to the second half of your term 4 booklet – “Lessons in Love” from the Song of Songs.

This is a part of the Bible that most people (if they read it at all) find it pretty hard to get a grip on. It's just so different to anything else in the Bible! In fact it seems so “human” that it almost feels like it doesn't belong in the Bible at all! But as we'll learn from God's “Lessons in Love” it turns out that the God who made us IN love, also made us FOR love. There's much for us to learn from Song of Songs.

It's also worth saying up front that Song of Songs isn't just a book for married people. Whether you're married (happily or struggling), single (happily or struggling), divorced, widowed or something else in-between, there are lessons to learn – often difficult lessons but extremely valuable lessons for anyone ready to listen to God's word on this vital subject.

As always, let me also encourage you to listen to God's word with your “community antenna” up – thinking not just “what's in this for me?” but also “how can I spur others on with God's word?” I've heard it said that matters of faith are always personal but should never be private. I think that's so true. So let's do all that we can to keep helping one another Love Like Jesus as we close out the year together.

In Christ

Pete



How to LL as you study Song of Songs

In community

It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: “word to life” and “life to word”.

Word to life

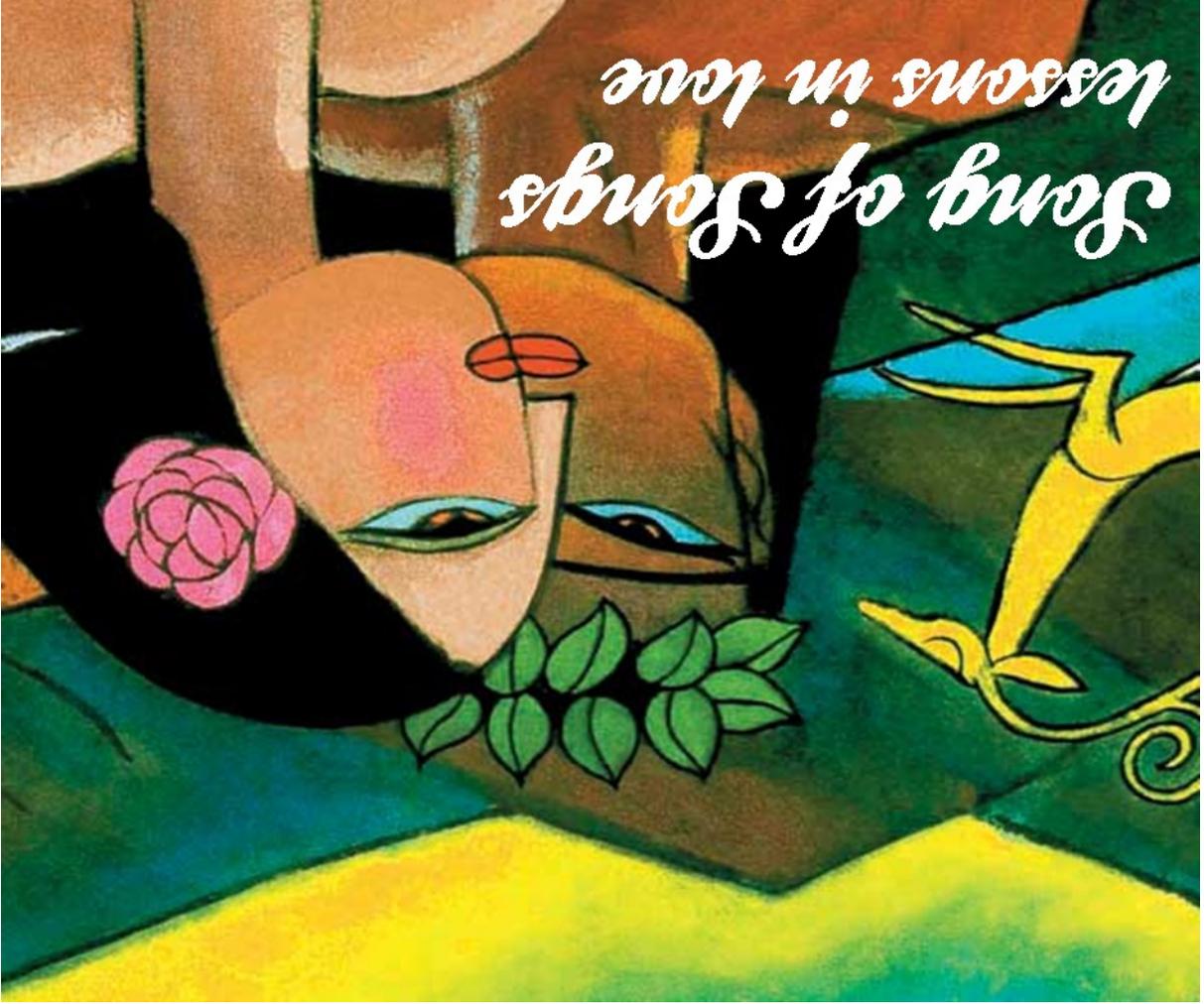
When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

Life to word

The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from “word to life”, the better we'll get at moving from “life to word” and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, it's jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame."
 Song of songs 8:6

- 1 Crazy little thing called love Song of Songs 1:1-2:7 Nov 30
- 2 Love and other bruises Song of Songs 2:8-3:5 Dec 7
- 3 Too much love will kill you Song of Songs 3:6-8:4 Dec 14
- 4 I want to know what love is Song of Songs 8:5-14 Dec 21



TERM 4 2014