



**SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*growing followers of Jesus*

## Series Companion Term 2 2018

# fulfilled

2018

following Jesus through  
Luke's gospel

1	May 6	FAITH	Luke 7
2	May 13	POWER	Luke 8
3	May 20	PROPHET & KING	Exodus 32
	May 27		NCCC
4	June 3	MESSIAH	Luke 9
5	June 10	PRIORITIES	Luke 10
6	June 17	SPIRIT	Ezekiel 36-37
7	June 24	SIGNS	Luke 11
8	July 1	ON GUARD	Luke 12



# Fulfilled

After a term of something a little different, welcome to the return of your series companion. Let me remind you of how to make the most of it throughout the term. One thing I'd encourage you to do is to keep your series companion tucked inside your Bible and bring them both along with you on a Sunday. As you listen to the Bible talk, keep an eye on the questions in that week's study and take notes on the pages of the study. It'll help you to listen AND have the added bonus of meaning you're much better prepared to contribute well at DNA during the week.

Another way to make the most of your series companion could be to use it in your daily quiet time by reading the passage and then answering one or two questions each day. By the time DNA rolls around, you'll be immersed in the passage and ready to share all the good things you've discovered.

This term's Series Companion also contains the 123 Challenge and the Mid-Week Extra, carried over from term 4 last year. My hope is that these features will take God's word deeper into your heart to be used there by the Holy Spirit and also to help you think more deeply about some of the issues raised in the passage each week. To learn more about these features and how to make the most of them just turn the page!

I hope you enjoy getting stuck into Luke 7-12 this term and also benefit from the side trips we'll make into the Old Testament to discover all that Jesus has Fulfilled!



**Pete Thompson**  
April 2018

## How to be growing followers of Jesus as you study God's Word...

### 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!

# 123 Challenge

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The 123 Challenge is an opportunity to make the most of our Luke series by memorising verses, chunks or passages of Luke so that they stick in your mind, seep into your heart and bear fruit in your life—well beyond this term.

The “123” refers to 1 Peter 1:23 which tells us “you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God”. It’s a verse that highlights the essential role of God’s word in giving us new birth in Jesus and also in growing us up in Jesus. The “123” also refers to the three levels of the challenge that you can choose from: a verse, a chunk, or the whole passage each week. Which will you choose!?



The suggestion is that in your first group time of the term each person chooses which level of the challenge they want to have a go at. In following weeks, start your group time by testing each other on the previous week’s verse, chunk or passage and then talk about the impact it’s had on you as it’s grown in you throughout the week.

## Mid-week Extra

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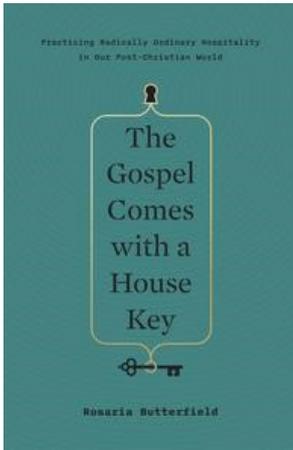
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! No, it’s not a school carnival war-cry. The Mid-week Extra is an online resource (usually an article but sometimes an audio or video clip) chosen to help you think further about one of the issues raised in each passage. Engaging with the Mid-week Extra, will mean we can discuss it when we’re together, enriching our fellowship and helping us to grow together as followers of Jesus.



You can access the Mid-week Extra in one of two ways:

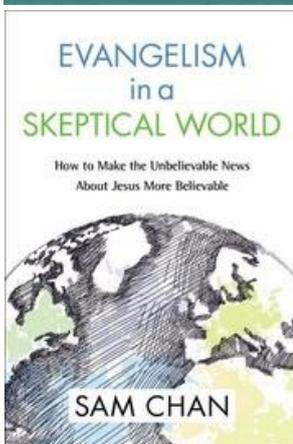
1. If you download the Series Companion (i.e. this booklet) from the SCPC website ([scpc.org.au/resources/series-companion](http://scpc.org.au/resources/series-companion)) you can click on the “Extra” icon each week and it will take you straight to the relevant resource.
2. If the mid-week extra is a text-based resource, a limited number of copies will be available on the Community Table each Sunday or from the office at Park Ave during the week.

# Helpful Books



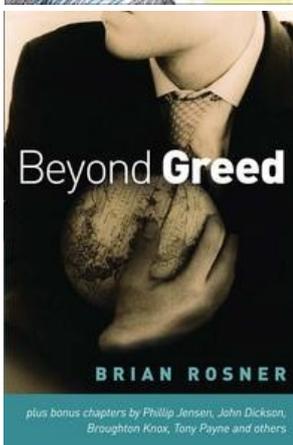
## The Gospel Comes With a House Key

What did God use to draw a radical, committed unbeliever home? Did God take her to an evangelistic rally? Or, since she had her doctorate in literature, did he use something in print? No, God used an invitation to dinner in a modest home, from a humble couple who lived out the gospel daily, simply, and authentically. With this story of her conversion as a backdrop, Rosaria Butterfield invites us into her home to show us how God can use this same “radical, ordinary hospitality” to bring the gospel to our lost friends and neighbours.



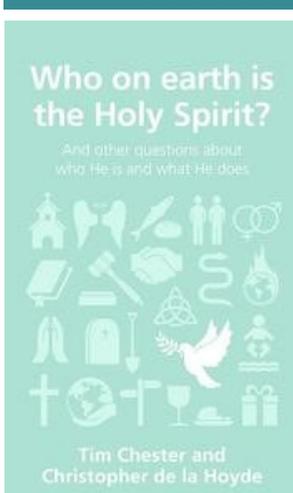
## Evangelism In A Skeptical World

Most Christians already know that they should be telling their friends about Jesus. But they've either never been equipped or have been poorly equipped with methods that are no longer effective in today's post-Christian world. As a result, many people become frustrated, blame themselves, and simply give up. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* is a textbook on evangelism that is ideal for equipping Christians with the principles and skills they need to make the unbelievable news about Jesus more believable to their friends in a skeptical world.



## Beyond Greed

According to Brian Rosner, greed is a massive blind spot for Christians, which is surprising given how much the Bible has to say about it. He writes: "The most disturbing thing about the fact that greed is idolatry is that hardly anybody owns up to being a worshipper. Yet if our analysis of the religion of money is right, the unthinkable may not be so far from the truth." *Beyond Greed* helps open our eyes to the problems, and proposes a liberating lifestyle that trades in greed and materialism for something of far greater worth and satisfaction.



## Who On Earth is the Holy Spirit

Many people find it easy to understand about God and Jesus, but struggle to understand quite how and where the Holy Spirit fits into the picture. Who exactly is he? How does he work in our lives? This short, readable book is suitable for all Christians - especially those who are struggling with questions about who the Holy Spirit is. A gem of a book that helps us embrace the beautiful work of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. Its full of beautiful theology, wise practical advice, and wonderful illustrations.



# #1 FAITH

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. Would you describe your faith in Jesus as strong or weak? Why?

2. According to Richard Dawkins "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence." Is this true of your faith?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

### ***READ Luke 7***

3. This chapter is full of people with different expectations of Jesus. Fill out the following table to explore their expectations, reasons for holding them, and how Jesus compares to their expectations.

Person or group	Expectations of Jesus	Reasons for holding these expectations	How Jesus compares
Elders of the Jews			
Centurion (via friends)			
John & his Disciples			
Simon the Pharisee			
The sinful woman			

4. The chapter begins and ends with stories of faith. What attitude do the two “believers” in these stories share and how does this help you understand “faith”?
5. These two stories also highlight a lack of faith in others. Who lacks faith and why?
6. In Luke 9:7-8 we read various theories about Jesus’ identity. How does Luke 7 help to explain where these theories might have come from (e.g. compare 1 Kings 17:7-24)?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the “NA” in DNA stands for “Nurture & Apply”. These questions help us to care for each other and live out God’s word...***

7. Christian faith has 2 essential components: 1) a humble acknowledgment that we have needs which only God can meet and 2) that God graciously meets these needs in Jesus. Which of these 2 components is harder for you to accept?

8. Are you more like Simon or the woman under his table—how good are you at admitting your sin to yourself and confessing your sin to God?



1. The **VERSE** - Luke 7:47
2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 7:41-47
3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 7:36-50





# #2 POWER

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. Which do you find more impressive: Jesus' words or his works? Why?

2. Most people have a love/hate relationship with power. Why is this so?

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### ***READ Luke 8***

3. The parable of the Sower is a parable about parables. Why does Jesus speak in parables? Does this surprise you?

4. How do the two short sections in verses 16-21 reinforce the Parable of the Sower?

5. The first half of Luke 8 is about hearing Jesus' powerful words, the second half is about experiencing his powerful works. What is the relationship between Jesus' words and his works and where does faith fit in the equation?

6. In the second half of Luke 8 Jesus displays his power over 4 different realms. What are they, and what do these displays reveal about Jesus identity and his purpose?

7. How (or for whom) does Jesus use his power and how does this help you trust him?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

8. Where in this chapter can you see examples of the seed falling on good soil and how do they help you see the opportunities you have to produce a crop in your own life?

9. What can we do to help each other be the good soil that hears God's word, retains it, and by persevering produces a crop—a hundred times more than was sown?



1. The **VERSE** - Luke 8:15
2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 8:11-15
3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 8:11-21





# #3

## PROPHET & KING

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. What do you think it would be like to meet God face-to-face? Does the prospect appeal to you?
  
2. What kind of sin do you think your friends might deem worthy of God's judgment?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

***READ Exodus 31:18-33:6 & 34:1-7, 29-35***

3. When Moses sees what Aaron and the people have done, he bravely offers to make atonement for their sin (Exodus 32:30). What would this involve? How does God respond to Moses' plea?
  
4. When Moses returns to the top of the Mountain, he experiences a great privilege. What is it and what effect does it have on Moses?

## **READ 2 Samuel 7**

5. This passage lays the foundation for Israel's expectations about their Messiah. What kind of house will God build for David?

6. Is there anything surprising in 2 Samuel 7 about the promised son of David? Who do you think best fits the description?

7. What is most impressive about David's prayer?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

8. How do you think your sin compares to Israel making the golden calf? How does the way God treats Israel's sin make you feel about your own sin?

9. David's prayer is a great reminder that God loves, saves and blesses us ultimately for his own glory. How might this perspective help you to live for Jesus?



1. The **VERSE** -
2. The **CHUNK** -
3. The **PASSAGE** -





# #4 MESSIAH

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. What's the closest you've come to a brush with fame? How did the experience make you feel?
2. What does the world consider is worth making sacrifices for?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

### ***READ Luke 9***

3. What parallels can you see between Luke 9 and the Exodus chapters we studied last week? In what way is Jesus the fulfilment of these OT passages?
4. In study 1 (Luke 7) we saw why people were confused about who Jesus was. Here in chapter 9, Peter gets it right: Jesus is "God's Messiah". Given the OT promises concerning the Messiah (see study 3), what is surprising about what Jesus says about his future?

5. How would you summarise what Luke 9 has to say about following Jesus?

6. According to Jesus, why is following him hard? What makes following Jesus worth it?

7. Why is the disciples' debate about which of them would be the greatest so inappropriate?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

8. Its easy to say we're following Jesus but ignore what he says that means. How seriously are you taking Jesus' call to follow him? What would be a good "next step" for you to take?

9. The disciples seemed to think that following Jesus would lead to greatness. In a sense they were right but how did Jesus redefine greatness? How could you "welcome little children" in Jesus' name?



1. The **VERSE** - Luke 9:22

2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 9:21-26

3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 9:18-27





# #5 PRIORITIES

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. What's something you enjoy that's good but that could stop you enjoying something even better?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

***READ Luke 10***

2. In each of this chapter's 3 episodes people have their focus on something which is good but not best. Fill out the table below to explore this pattern.

Person or group	The Good Thing	The Better Thing
The Seventy-Two		
The Expert in the Law		
Martha		

3. In each of these episodes there's also something that's not quite right in people's motives. Can you spot them?

4. When the kingdom of heaven comes near it can be good news or bad (verses 8-12). What makes the difference?

5. Why do you think the parable of the Good Samaritan is one of Jesus' most-loved parables? How do you think the expert in the law felt about it?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

6. Verses 1-24 describe some pretty full-on door-to-door evangelism. Do you think there's a place for anything like this today? If not, how should we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom?

7. Can you think of any false motives that cause you to love something good and miss out on something even better?

8. Pick the episode in this chapter that you most identify with and consider how you might take your next step in following Jesus.



1. The **VERSE** - Luke 10:42
2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 10:38-42
3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 10:25-42





# #6 SPIRIT

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. Would you call yourself a spiritual person, why/why not?
  
2. The fastest growing "faith category" in Australia is known as "Spiritual but Not Religious" (SNR for short). What do you think "spiritual" means for these people?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

3. Use the following passages to get a brief overview of the Holy Spirit's activity in the Old Testament.

Passage	The Holy Spirit's Activity
Genesis 1:1-2	
Genesis 2:7	
Genesis 6:3	
Exodus 40:34-38	
1 Kings 8:10-11	
Isaiah 63:7-19	

**READ Ezekiel 36:24-37:14**

4. In Ezekiel's time Israel were in exile in Babylon but God promised to act in a decisive way to ensure a bright future for his people. What role will the Spirit play in this revival (note: the Hebrew words for "breath" and "spirit" are the same)?

**READ Ezekiel 37:15-28**

5. When God revives the dry bones of his people another key player will unite and rule them. Where do we see these promises being fulfilled in the pages of the New Testament (Acts 1:6-8, Acts 2 & Revelation 21:1-5 could be helpful)?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

6. Some Christians (maybe even you!) might see our church as being not very spiritual. What do you think they might mean and do you think it's a valid criticism?

7. Given the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in God's salvation plan, would you be happy to wear the tag of being "Spiritual but Not Religious"?



1. The VERSE -
2. The CHUNK -
3. The PASSAGE -





# #7 SIGNS

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. Can you say the Lord's Prayer from memory? What do you like about it?
2. How would you answer a friend who said they'd believe in God if he gave them a sign?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

### ***READ Luke 11***

3. How do verses 5-13 help you understand the Lord's Prayer (note: in verse 3 "our daily bread" would be better translated as "the bread of the coming day")?
4. Jesus has just urged his disciples to ask their Heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit, but what do the crowd ask for instead (verse 16)? What does their request reveal about where their hearts are at?

6. What did the men of Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba do that the crowds following Jesus have failed to do?

5. How does Jesus' teaching in verses 17-28 reinforce the need to pray for the Holy Spirit?

7. Jesus could be a tricky dinner guest! What is at the heart of his condemnation of the Pharisees and the experts in the law?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

8. Since Pentecost (Acts 2) the Holy Spirit has been given to all Christians—Jesus has answered his own prayer!) But we are still called to “walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:13-26). Which sins of the Pharisees and law experts do you need to bring under the Spirit's power?

9. How would you use Luke 11 to encourage a Christian who fears they might be possessed?



1. The **VERSE** - Luke 11:13
2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 11:9-13
3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 11:1-13





# #8 ON GUARD

***Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...***

1. How does your view of the future shape how you live today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Think of a friend who you are/would like to be sharing the gospel with. What do you think they're living for and how does the gospel address their goals?

***DISCOVER: the "D" in DNA stands for "Discover". It's now time to read God's word and discover what God has to teach us and why it matters...***

## ***READ Luke 12***

3. Jesus is now on his way to Jerusalem so his teaching begins to focus more & more on preparing his disciples for his death and resurrection and life after his departure. According to Luke 12, what are they to be ready for and guard against?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Verses 4-7 are a bit confusing. Why does Jesus tell his disciples to fear God (verse 5) and then not to be afraid (verse 7)?

5. What is the connection between Jesus' teaching on greed (verses 13-21) and his teaching about worry (verses 22-34)?

6. In light of Jesus' rebuke of the crowd for their failure to "interpret this present time", who is the "adversary" he has in mind?

***NURTURE & APPLY: the "NA" in DNA stands for "Nurture & Apply". These questions help us to care for each other and live out God's word...***

7. How good are you at interpreting this present time AND living in light of it—especially in the areas highlighted by Jesus in Luke 12: fear of man, hypocrisy, greed & worry?

8. Pick one of these four areas and make a plan to address it. Workshop your plan with the rest of your group and ask for their help in implementing it.



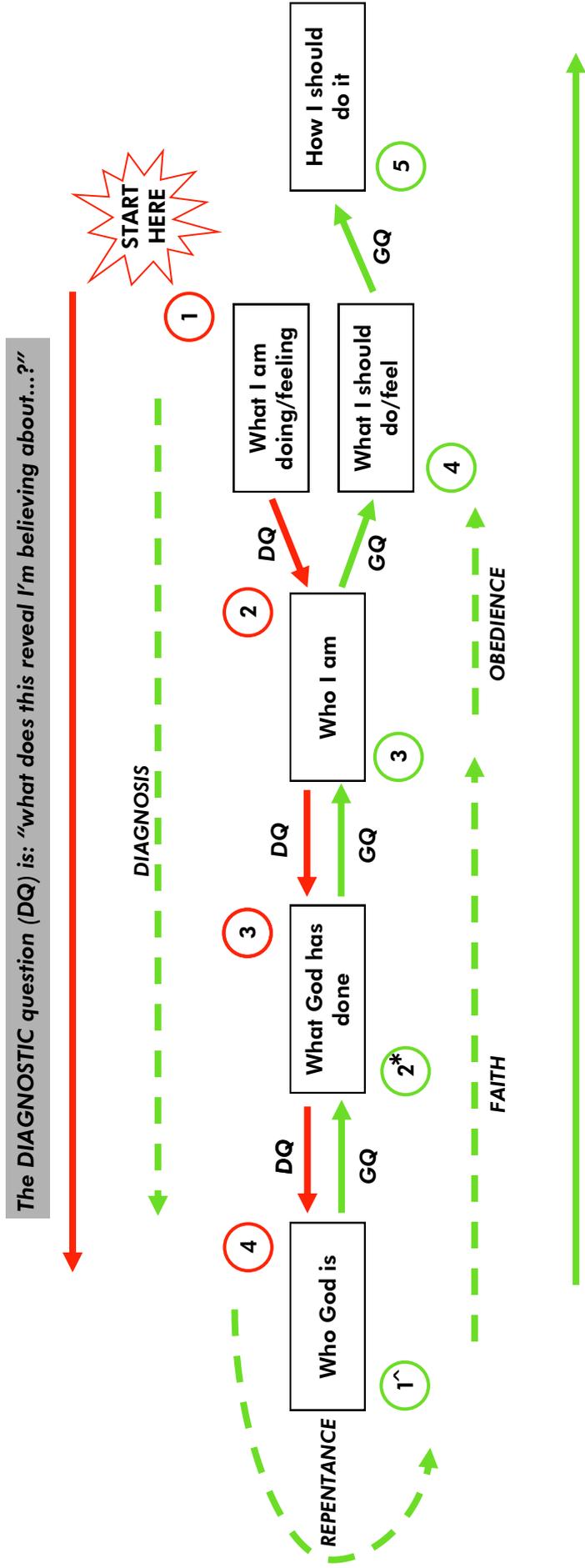
1. The **VERSE** - Luke 12:15
2. The **CHUNK** - Luke 12:13-21
3. The **PASSAGE** - Luke 12:13-34





# 5 questions for gospel growth

(gospel-centred diagnosis, repentance, faith & obedience)



^ NOTE: to help at this point you may want to consider "the 4Gs" which are a helpful summary of God's character: God is...  
 GREAT: so we don't have to be in control  
 GLORIOUS: so we don't have to fear others  
 GOOD: so we don't have to look elsewhere  
 GRACIOUS: so we don't have to prove ourselves

\* NOTE: the focus here should be on Jesus and making him the hero of your story. Consider the 5 elements of the gospel: Jesus' incarnation, his life, his death, his resurrection & his return as one or more of these elements may be most relevant to your circumstances at a particular time.







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