



**SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*growing followers of Jesus*

## **Series Companion Term 3 2018**

# fulfilled

2018

following Jesus through  
Luke's gospel

1	July 29	Access Denied	Luke 13
2	Aug 5	Give it Up for Jesus	Luke 14
3	Aug 12	The Law & You	Exodus 20
4	Aug 19	Lost & Found	Luke 15
5	Aug 26	Invest for the Future	Luke 16
6	Sept 2	God's Timing	2 Peter 3
7	Sept 9	Believing is Seeing	Luke 17
8	Sept 16	Less is More	Luke 18
9	Sept 23	CELEBRATION SUNDAY!!!	



# Fulfilled

Welcome to your term 3 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 this series companion tucked inside your Bible and bring them both along with you each 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 in your DNA group 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 two new icons at the end of each study replacing the 123 Challenge and the Mid-Week Extra. My hope is that using these features will make your time in God's word more fruitful—both in your life and in the lives of others. 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 13-18 this term and also benefit from the detours we'll make into other parts of the Bible to discover all that Jesus has FULFILLED!



## 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!

# What will I DO?

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This term there are two new(ish) icons at the end of each study, replacing the 123 memory challenge and the mid-week extra. The first icon is there to encourage you to take some action as a result of your study of God's word. James 1:22 & 25 should help us—"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says....

Whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do." It's so easy to be a "mere listener" but if you write something down next to this icon each week it might just help you to remember what you've heard and do it.

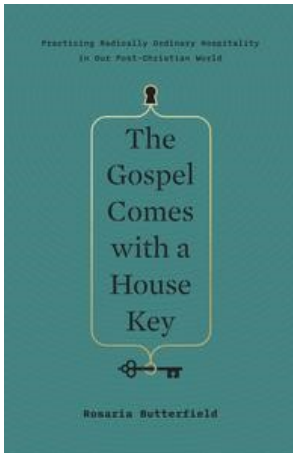
# Who will I TELL?

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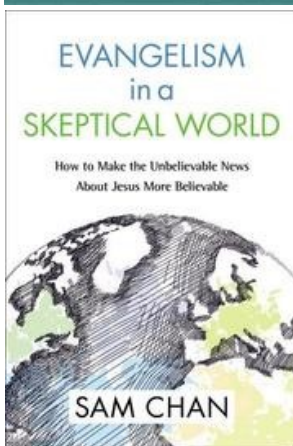
The second icon is there to encourage you to share what you've learnt with someone else. This could be another believer who you think would benefit from what you have to share or who you think would be a good conversation partner to help you take your thinking further. Alternatively, you might have a non-Christian friend who would be happy to hear about what you've learnt and this could lead to fruitful discussions about their beliefs or worldview.

# Helpful Books



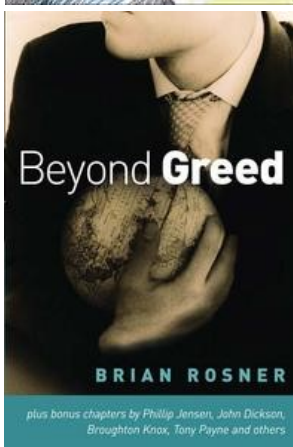
## The Gospel Comes With a House Key

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 Access Denied

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:1-8 & then pray together now.***

***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 13***

1. A fig tree often represents the nation of Israel. Based on verses 1-9, what have the Jews misunderstood about God's judgment?

2. Based on verses 10-17, what have the Jews misunderstood about the law in general and the Sabbath in particular?

3. Do you think Jesus intended his words in verses 18-21 to be a warning or an encouragement or both (or something else altogether)?

4. How do verses 22-30 flesh out the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast?

5. The conversation at the closed narrow door is unsettling to say the least! What can we learn from it?

6. How would you describe Jesus' response to the Pharisees' warning/threat? How would you describe his attitude towards Jerusalem?

***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. This passage has a tone of warning and urgency. 2000 years later, do you think that the need to heed the warnings and continue the urgency has passed – why or why not, and what if anything does it mean for you?

8. How can we ensure that we're among the last who will be first rather than the first who will be last?



What will I



Who will I



# #2

## Give it Up for Jesus

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:9-16 & then pray together now.***

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### ***READ Luke 14***

1. Why do you think the Pharisees don't answer Jesus' questions in verses 3-6? Read Exodus 20:8-11. How does Jesus' understanding of the law differ from that of the Pharisees?

2. In verses 7-14, Jesus isn't teaching people to have good table manners. What does he really want them to learn?

3. In verses 15-24 Jesus describes a third meal. What similarities and differences do you notice when comparing this story with the two meals described earlier in the chapter?

4. Who is who in this story? How do you explain the contrasting responses between the first and second group of invitees?



5. Why does Jesus use the word “hate” in verse 26?

6. Read verse 33 and then make a list of the things Jesus is challenging his hearers to give up in this chapter. Why is it so important that they do?

***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 do you think verses 28-33 should impact the way we share the gospel with our friends?

8. Jesus words in verse 33 are uncompromising. What do you need to give up to follow Jesus?



What will I



Who will I



# #3

## The Law & You

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:25-32 & then pray together now.***

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### ***READ Exodus 19:5-6; 20:1-17 & Hebrews 10:1-18***

1. How does God describe himself in Exodus 20:2? Which came first, the rescue or the law?

2. In Exodus 19:5-6 God seems to be saying that his relationship with Israel is dependent on their ability to keep the law. Does this mean that the Old Testament covenant was based on works and not on grace?

3. It's easy to take laws out of context and forget the purpose for which they were made. According to these verses, what is the goal of keeping God's law?

4. How does God's provision of a system of sacrifices shape your view of whether the Old Testament covenant was based on keeping the law or on grace?

5. Understanding the difference between “union” and “communion” is helpful for understanding the role of the law. Is the law in Exodus 20 given to establish a relationship or to govern a relationship already established?

6. List three ways that the law in Exodus 20 helps you to know God and what matters to 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...***

7. According to Hebrews 10, the Old Testament sacrifices have been superseded by the once for all sacrifice of Jesus. Does this mean that sin no longer has any consequences?

8. How does the gospel of Jesus motivate you to love and keep God’s law?



What will I



Who will I



# #4 Lost & Found

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:33-40 & then pray together now.***

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## ***READ Luke 15***

1. Compare the first two parables. What similarities and differences do you notice and what can you learn from them?

2. What expectations do the first two parables set up for the third and to what extent does the third parable meet or challenge/surprise these expectations?

3. Do you think the younger son was truly repentant, why/why not?

4. What words would you use to describe the Father's treatment of his two sons?

5. How would you summarise the point of the parable of the lost son (your “point” may have more than one part)?

6. Given Jesus’ audience (see verses 1-2), who was Jesus originally addressing in these parables and how does knowing this help us in applying the parables personally?

***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. Do you identify more with the younger son or the older son? What, then, do you need to learn from this parable?

8. If heaven rejoices at the repentance of one sinner, what implications should that have for your life?



What will I



Who will I



# #5

## Invest for the Future

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:41-48 & then pray together now.***

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### ***READ Luke 16***

1. What is the difference between the original accusation made against the manager in verse 1 and his behaviour in verses 3-7?

2. How might your answer to question 1 explain the master's response in verse 8?

3. What do you think it means to be "trustworthy in handling worldly wealth"? Give some examples.

4. Verse 18 seems easy to understand but difficult to live by. What should we do with such challenging passages?

5. Read on its own, the rich man and Lazarus is the kind of story that can raise more questions than it answers! How does reading it in light of the first half of the chapter help to make sense of it?

6. What crucial truth does chapter 16 teach us about time and eternity?

***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. In light of what this chapter has to say about eternity, how could you better use the worldly wealth with which you’ve been entrusted? What would it take to make this change?

8. What is the key to honouring God’s good law without becoming Pharisees? How could this help us in the area of marriage, divorce and remarriage?



What will I



Who will I



# #6 God's Timing

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give your ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:57-64 & then pray together now.***

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## ***READ Malachi 4:1-6***

1. What perspective did Malachi (one of "the holy prophets" mentioned in 2 Peter 3) have on the day of the Lord?

## ***READ Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:16-20***

2. What do you notice about the way Jesus quotes from Isaiah?

3. Do you think Jesus' decision to stop where he does means that he is not the Lord Malachi prophesied?

## ***READ Luke 12:49-50***

4. How do these verses clarify God's timeline and Jesus' role in bringing it about?



## **READ 2 Peter 3**

5. Peter claims that the scoffers have re-written history to suit their own evil desires. What do they “deliberately forget”?

6. How does Peter explain the delay in Jesus’ “coming”?

***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. There is a danger that we will respond to God’s patience with complacency. How can we avoid this?

8. It’s hard to look forward to Jesus’ return when we enjoy so many good things already. What kind of “good life” does Peter urge us to live so that we keep looking forward?



What will I



Who will I



# #7 Believing is Seeing

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:73-80 & then pray together now.***

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## ***READ Luke 17***

1. As Jesus heads for Jerusalem and all that awaits him there, he continues to prepare his disciples for his departure. In verses 1-4, what crucial aspects of life together does Jesus highlight?

2. The disciples seem to think that what Jesus is asking is too hard. How do his words in verses 6-10 aim to reshape their thinking and enable them to live according to his commands?

3. Jesus' teaching about the coming kingdom of God aims to un-teach several misconceptions. What are they?

4. Jesus seems to tell his hearers that the kingdom of God has come (verse 21) and is also yet to come. How can both be true?

5. We live in between the events described in verse 24 and those in verse 25. According to Jesus, how should we approach life in these days?

6. In the middle of the chapter Luke includes a contrast story which highlights a shift in the make-up of God's kingdom. How does this story relate to the teaching material surrounding it in this chapter?

***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. What stops you from:

a) rebuking a brother or sister who sins against you?

b) accepting the rebuke of a brother or sister and repenting of your sin against them?

c) forgiving a brother or sister who repents, even if they repeat their sin against you many times?

8. Does Jesus' impending return play any role in how you approach life? What would matter more to you if his return did play a role and what would matter less?



What will I



Who will I



# #8

## Less is More

***Before jumping into God's word, it's worth taking a few minutes to ask God to speak to you as you read and give you ears to hear what he is saying. Pray too that he will help you to serve your group well as you meet together.***

**➔ *Read Psalm 119:89-96 & then pray together now.***

***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 18***

1. According to Jesus, how does prayer relate to faith?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Based on verses 1-8, which of the following statements is true?
  - a) The more you pray for something the more likely it is God will give you what you ask for
  - b) God will answer prayers for justice quickly
  - c) This parable only applies to prayers for justice
  - d) constant prayer expresses a relationship more than it influences a result
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Our prayers should reflect what's true about God's nature and also what's true about ours. How well do the prayers described in verses 1-14 do this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does a little child possess that a wealthy ruler doesn't?

5. Write 2 lists of the attributes that Jesus commends and condemns in this chapter and then add the names/identities of the people described in the chapter who display these attributes. How do these lists speak to you?

6. Jesus and the disciples are getting closer to Jerusalem – the end of the road for Jesus, but for the disciples it's just the beginning. How does appreciating this context help you to understand why Jesus teaches what he does?

***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 does self-righteousness separate us from God and each other? how do you detect when you're being self-righteous and what can you do about it?

8. Does your life reflect Jesus' "less is more" teaching or are you a camel trying to go through the eye of a needle?



What will I

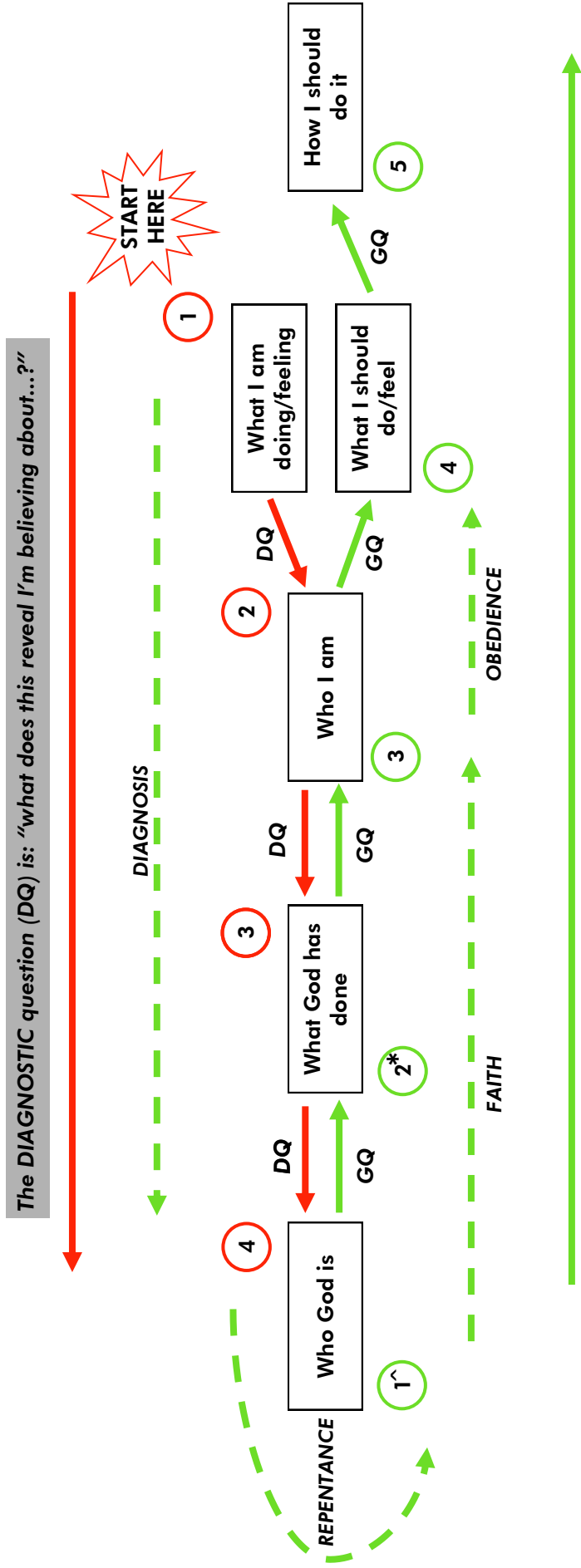


Who will I



# 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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