



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

growing followers of Jesus

SERIES COMPANION TERM 1 2019

ROMANS 1-8

ABOVE ALL EARTHLY POWERS

1	FEB 3	POWER TO SAVE	ROMANS 1:1-17
2	FEB 10	SAVING SINNERS	ROMANS 1:18-32
3	FEB 17	SAVING SAINTS	ROMANS 2
4	FEB 24	HOW THE GOSPEL SAVES	ROMANS 3
5	MAR 3	GOD'S PLAN A (PART 2)	ROMANS 4
6	MAR 10	GOD'S PLAN A (PART 1)	ROMANS 5
7	MAR 17	THE PENALTY & POWER OF SIN	ROMANS 6:1-7:6
8	MAR 24	THE PRESENCE OF SIN & THE SPIRIT	ROMANS 7:7-8:17
9	MAR 31	REAL HOPE: SUFFERING & GLORY	ROMANS 8:18-39

ROMANS 1-8

Welcome to your Term 1 series companion. Let me encourage you to keep it 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.

This term we'll be using "Swedish Method" studies which use a set of stock questions that work for any passage of the Bible. The questions stay the same each week but because the passage changes, so should your answers (if they don't you're doing something wrong!). If you're not really sure what a question is asking, just flick back to the sample study on pages 6-7 to get yourself sorted.

But in the past some people have found the Swedish Method questions haven't given them enough direction to explore the passage properly. Last term I included chapter notes in your series companion to try to provide that extra guidance. This term I'll be writing chapter notes a week in advance and they'll be available on the community table each Sunday and also on the SCPC website under the resources tab.

I'm praying that the coming term studying Romans 1-8 together will give us an eye-poppingly BiG vision of Jesus and his powerful gospel and all that he died and rose to achieve in us, among us and through us.



Pete Thompson
January 2019

How to be growing followers of Jesus as you study Romans 1-8...

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 understand and 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!

PAUL'S LETTER TO ROMA



THE GOSPEL...

1-4

...REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

1:1-17

THE GOSPEL:

THE RISEN JESUS
IS KING OF
THE NATIONS



IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE PEOPLE

REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ① HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS JUST & RIGHT.
- ② HE IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES

1:16-32 ALL NATIONS ARE TRAPPED



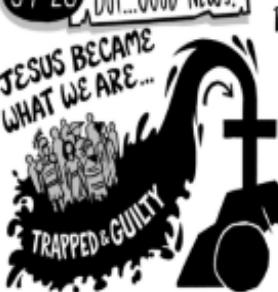
GUILTY!

...ISRAEL IS TRAPPED TOO! 2:1-3:6



MORE GUILTY!

3:9-26 BUT... GOOD NEWS!



...SO WE COULD
BECOME WHAT
HE IS.

JUSTIFICATION BY
FAITH
"TO DECLARE RIGHTEOUS"

NEW STATUS: RIGHT WITH GOD & FORGIVEN

INCLUDED IN
GOD'S PEOPLE

NEW FAMILY: TRANSFORMED LIFE

NEW FUTURE: TRANSFORMED LIFE

"IN CHRIST"

4 WHO IS IN GOD'S COVENANT FAMILY?

DECLARED
RIGHTEOUS
BY HIS
FAITH
IN GOD'S
PROMISE
(GENESIS 15:6)

ABRAHAM
(GENESIS 11:18)

ALL NATIONS
WILL BE
BLESSED
THROUGH
YOU & YOUR
OFFSPRING.

God



THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH
IN THE ONE WHO
FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE

THE CHURCH
of ROME
(SEE ACTS 18:1-2)

5-8 ...CREATES A NEW HUMANITY

5 JUSTIFICATION
BY FAITH
CREATES NEW
HUMANITY

SIN

SLAVERY
GOD'S JUDGMENT

ADAM

"HUMANITY"

JESUS
"THE NEW ADAM"

Faithfulness
Obedience

LEAVE THIS
HUMANITY!

DEATH

LOVE

Life

NEW LIFE!

LIBERATED to LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

7 WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE

LAW?
(TORAH)

A THE STORY of
THE TORAH

B THE 613
COMMANDS
GIVEN THROUGH
MOSES

GOOD & SHOW GOD'S WILL

THE PARADOX
IS THE
POINT!

DON'T LIE
DON'T STEAL
LOVE OTHERS
DON'T COVET

MORE
GUILTY!

LIBERATED to LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

6 DEATH
LIBERATED to LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

THE SOLUTION: JESUS & THE SPIRIT

CROSS
MESSIAH

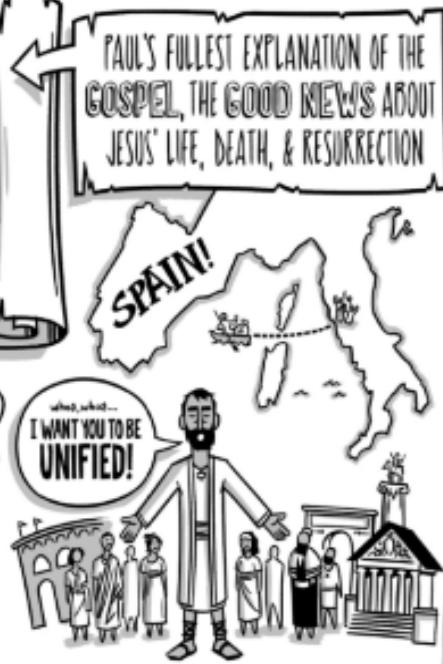
LAW
LIBERATED

SPRIT
LIBERATED

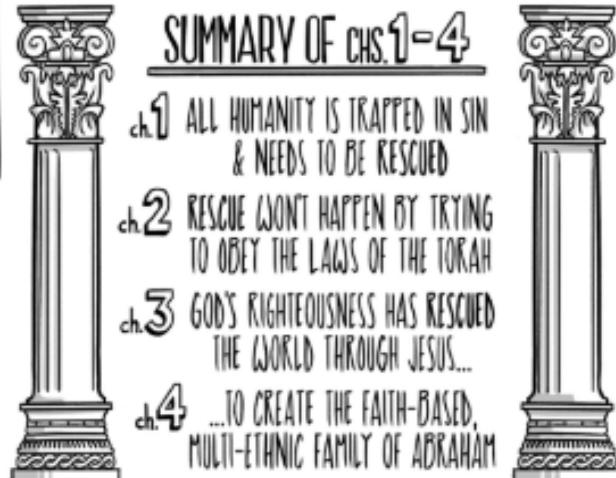
RENEWED
CREATION!

R TO THE

ANS



9-11 ...FULFILLS GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL



12-16 ...UNIFIES THE CHURCH

12-13 UNIFYING THROUGH LOVE & FORGIVENESS



14-15 SHOW GRACE TO EACH OTHER ON NON-ESSENTIAL ISSUES





SAMPLE STUDY

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read the chapter



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?

Pay close attention to the logical flow of the passage. If it contains direct teaching (e.g. the NT letters), the most helpful tool in your kitbag is to follow the linking words (e.g. "therefore", "so", "but"). If your passage is more descriptive, the logic (and therefore the point) will be less explicit so you'll need to focus on the flow of the story to work it out. You'll also want to keep an eye out for significant themes which may be highlighted by repetition or by the use of metaphors or significant words or word families.



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?

The Bible is God's "special revelation". In it he reveals himself to us so that we can know him. So the Bible is like a WINDOW through which we can see the most glorious view ever beheld—a view of God himself. When we read the Bible we should be keeping the authors purpose in mind—to know him—rather than coming with our own agendas.



MIRROR

- What did you discover in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?

The Bible also acts like a MIRROR. As we read God's word and discover what he is like, we should also be looking to discover ourselves. A mirror allows us to see features and parts of ourselves that we wouldn't otherwise (and perhaps would rather not!) see. The Holy Spirit uses God's word to shape the way we think about ourselves and our circumstances. The Bible corrects our distorted views with the main purpose of helping us to relate rightly to God and our neighbour.



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?

The Bible, like all good stories, has a shape to it. It has a focus. It has a hero. God's self-revelation is fulfilled in Jesus. So no matter what part of the Bible we're reading we'll only fully understand it when we grasp how it points us to Jesus and enlarges and deepens our understanding of the gospel. Some tools to help in discovering this dimension of a passage are the SALVATION HISTORY tool (asking "what role does this passage play in the grand story of the bible?"); the TYPOLOGY tool (asking "how is this person (or group or situation) a type (or anti-type) of Jesus?"); and the THEMES tool (asking "what gospel themes are central to this passage?"). This can also be a good time to think about personal application—i.e. If this is true about Jesus and his gospel, then what difference should it make to my life?



QUESTIONS

5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?

One of the key skills in Bible discovery is to be inquisitive. Asking questions will help you get the most out of any passage. Whenever you feel any mental discord reading a passage it's a sign that there's still more to discover, so dig in! Any questions that remain unanswered are worthy of group discussion. Such questions might be logical ("I just don't get how the whole passage fits together"); theological ("this doesn't seem to match with my understanding of what the Bible teaches elsewhere"); semantic (I'm not sure I really know how those words are being used); etc...



RESPONSE

6. How should you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?

This is perhaps the most important and most neglected aspect of Bible discovery. God has given us his word for a purpose—so that we can know him and be inwardly and then outwardly transformed by our relationship with him. The challenge is that we are insecure and resistant to the hard work of transformation. Because of our insecurity we're reluctant to admit to ourselves and admit to each other what needs to change. Because of our pride and laziness we'd rather deal with "general truths" that are easy to hold at arms length than let the truth come home. But the good news is we CAN change and community is the God-given context for growing followers of Jesus. You should spend more time discussing and praying through this question than any other.



SHARE

7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?

One of the big obstacles to growing as followers of Jesus is that we don't take our discoveries with us as we go about our everyday lives. And the best antidote to this problem is to be sharing our discoveries with others. Sharing with others is an awesome way of reinforcing our discoveries and driving them deeper down into our lived experience. In addition to the personal benefit, our discoveries have huge potential to deepen our relationships with our friends and to spur them on to be growing followers of Jesus too!



PRAY

Pray for one another in response to what you've discovered in God's word and what you've shared.

Prayer is an ESSENTIAL dimension of every aspect of DNA. Prayer transforms what would otherwise be introspective reflection (preparing on our own) or interpersonal dialogue (talking to each other) into something truly spiritual.

We will only "discover" the powerful truths of a passage if God opens our eyes to see. We will only "nurture" one another effectively if our discussion is shaped by the wisdom of the gospel. We will only "apply" purposefully and powerfully in response to God's word if the Holy Spirit enables true heart change.

So make sure that prayer isn't a rushed activity at the end of your time together. Pray as you prepare. Pray at the beginning, during, AND at the end of your time together. Pray for yourselves and for each other throughout the week. Anyone should feel free to initiate prayer. Everyone should be encouraged to participate in prayer.

And one final piece of advice, don't fall into the trap of "sharing prayer points". It chews up valuable time and tends to put our concerns ahead of God's concerns. If its really important it will have come up already in response to God's word. And if it hasn't you can always just pray for it off the cuff—no point in everyone hearing it twice!

POWER TO SAVE

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 1:1-17



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



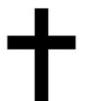
WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

B1C 2019

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 1:18-32



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

B1C
2019

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 2



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR



4

HOW THE GOSPEL SAVES

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 3



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

S upplication (asking)



5

GOD'S PLAN A (PT 2)

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 4



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

S upplication (asking)



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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 5



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

B1C 2019

7

THE PENALTY & POWER OF SIN

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 6:1-7:6



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

B1C
2019

8

THE PRESENCE OF SIN & THE SPIRIT

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 7:7-8:17



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



SHARE

- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

B1C
2019

REAL HOPE: SUFFERING & GLORY

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 so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 8:18-32



BIG IDEA

- How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

- What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

- How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



QUESTIONS

- What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



- How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



RESPONSE



- Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



SHARE



PRAY

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

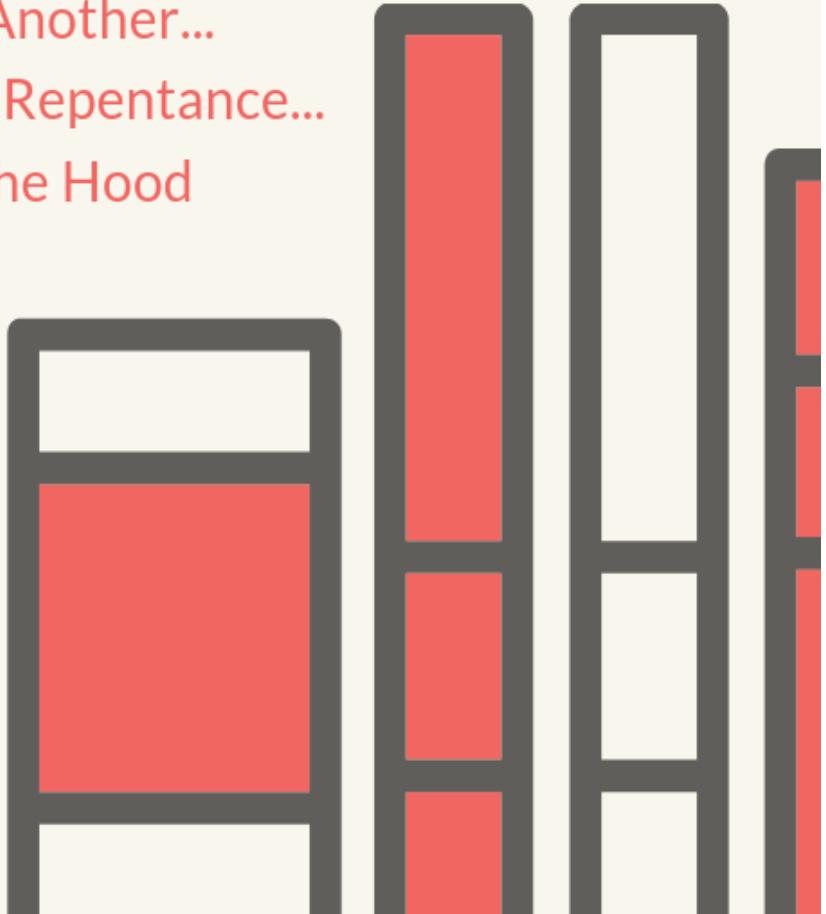
P R A Y | F O R | Y O U R

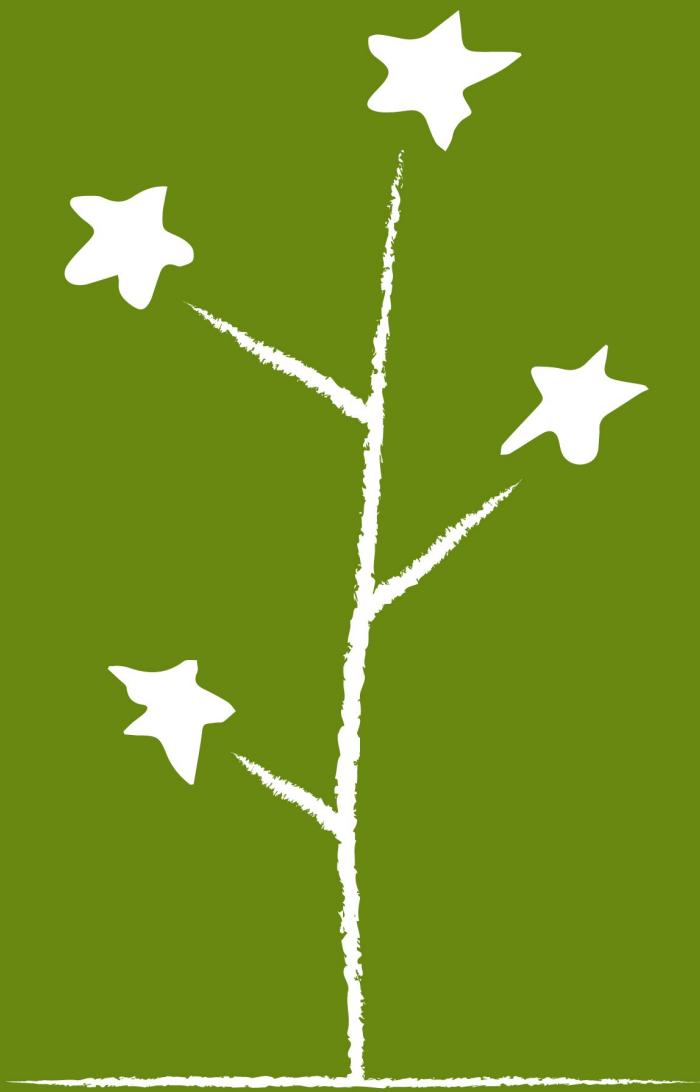
B1C
2019

SCPC BOOK CLUB 2019

ENJOYING GOD READING SCHEDULE

DATE	CHAPTER
3rd Feb	More & Joy
10th Feb	In Every Pleasure & Hardship...
17th Feb	In Every Prayer...
24th Feb	In Every Failure & Pain...
3rd March	In Every Supper...
10th March	In Every Temptation & Groan...
17th March	In Every Word...
24th March	In One Another...
31st March	In Daily Repentance...
3rd April	Under the Hood





**SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

growing followers of Jesus