



**SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*growing followers of Jesus*

**TERM 3 2020**

# KNOW THE LORD

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL



*20/20 Clarity*

FOCUS FOR THE GOOD LIFE

1	JULY 26	THE GOD OF GLORY	EZEKIEL 1-3
2	AUG 2	THE GOD OF JUDGEMENT	EZEKIEL 4-24
3	AUG 9	THE GOD OF THE NATIONS	EZEKIEL 25-32
4	AUG 16	THE GOD OF HOPE	EZEKIEL 33-36
5	AUG 23	THE GOD OF LIFE	EZEKIEL 37-39
6	AUG 25	EQUIP: SEEING THROUGH THE STORM WITH DR CAROLYN RUSSELL	
7	AUG 30	THE GOD OF THE FUTURE	EZEKIEL 40-48
8	SEPT 6	VISIONARIES: AUGUSTINE	1 JOHN 4
9	SEPT 13	VISIONARIES: SPURGEON	1 CORINTHIANS 2



# KNOW THE LORD

Do you know the Lord? Do you know the God of Ezekiel? Ezekiel paints a grand picture of the majestic and holy God of all the nations, who has been domesticated, disregarded and discarded by the people of God, Israel. Israel now finds itself cast off, lonely and alone in far off Babylon. The nations around Israel scorn and laugh at her sad and shocking demise. What of this nation? What of their future? Is all hope lost? Will Israel rise again?

The message of Ezekiel was a desperate message for the people; they needed to know hope in what many described 'The death of the nation Israel'. They needed to know the Lord. It is a message we urgently need to hear too in an age and culture that denies the presence of the supernatural, particularly any reference to an ancient and perceived dying outdated religious movement like Christianity. Some social commentators suggest the death of the church is nearly complete. Perhaps this most recent pandemic of COVID-19 will have finished off the church in the west for good.

Yet from the pages of Ezekiel, we receive hope. Hope for our city, hope for our nation, hope for our world. A hope that comes, not from health or educational reform, but a transformation so deep it promises to change us from the inside out. Each generation that arises will look for societal change and modification as the solution. Ezekiel will take us to the heart of the world's problems and bring us a solution that will affect every relationship in our lives.

Do you know the Lord? We pray you do! To finish the term, we will have a very short series that follows the lives of two believers, Augustine and Spurgeon, who had a vision of the grand God of Ezekiel which transformed not only their own lives but an entire generation. If that's not enough to raise your hopes for the term ahead, we hope to celebrate at the end of the term, all that the Lord has done in our church family in 2020, at Celebration Saturday, that's right, Celebration Saturday!

What a good life we enjoy under our Father, who is transforming us by the power of the Spirit, to the glory of Christ.

**Stew, Matt & Ian**  
July 2020

## 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!



# Sample “Swedish Method” 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

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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...*

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

RESPONSE

*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!*

# EZE

5 YEARS AFTER EXILE...

WHAT IS GOD'S GLORY DOING IN BABYLON?!



"THE APPEARANCE OF THE LIKENESS OF THE ~~GLORY~~ OF THE LORD"  
HEBREW **KAVOD** = PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S SIGNIFICANCE (SEE EXODUS 19, 24, 25)



## 1-11 ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

**1-3** EZEKIEL COMMISSIONED

SON OF MAN! ACCUSE ISRAEL OF BREAKING THE COVENANT AND WARN THEM OF IMMINENT DESTRUCTION.

- WORSHIP OF OTHER GODS
- SOCIAL INJUSTICE

**8-11** THE TEMPLE VISION

JUDGMENT

HOPE

**4-5** EZEKIEL'S SIGN ACTS

EZEKIEL THE SCAPEGOAT, BEARING ISRAEL'S SINS

STAGING THE JERUSALEM SIEGE

CHOPPING HIS HAIR

**BAD NEWS: NO ONE'S GOING TO LISTEN.**

ISRAEL'S HARD HEART

(RECALL DEUTERONOMY ch.30)

**11** ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY HAS DRIVEN GOD AWAY...

...BUT HE HASN'T ABANDONED HIS PEOPLE.

ISRAEL'S NEW HEART

A REMNANT WILL RETURN WITH NEW, TRANSFORMED HEARTS.

**12-20** USE OF PARABLE & ...

**15** A BURNING USELESS STALK

**19** A DANGEROUS LION

**34-37** MESSIANIC KING

**37** A NEW DAVID

RECALLS GENESIS HUMANS = DIRT + DIVINE

created by the Bible Project

# EKIEL



## 24 JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

**EZEKIEL AS LAWYER** (17, 18, 20)

**GOD, HAVE MERCY!**

**GOD**

TOO LATE!

NOAH, DANIEL, & JOB

**ISRAEL'S JUDGMENT IS DESERVED**

- GOD'S GOODNESS DEMANDS HE BRING JUSTICE
- THEY'VE REACHED A POINT OF NO RETURN

**10** A REBELLIOUS WIFE

**23** TWO PROMISCUOUS SISTERS

## 25-32 JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

**PHILISTIA** **AMMON** **EGYPT** **TYRE**

**MOAB** **EDOM**

**VIEWING THEMSELVES AS GODS**

**BABYLON'S COMING FOR YOU TOO!**

**ALL BROUGHT DOWN BY BABYLON...**

## 33

**JERUSALEM HAS FALLEN!**

## 37 HOPE FOR ISRAEL

**36** A NEW ISRAEL WITH A NEW HEART

**GOD'S SPIRIT**

AN IMAGE OF ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL STATE: EXILE & DEATH

**37** VALLEY OF DRY BONES

**THE ONLY HOPE IS FOR GOD TO REMAKE HUMANS TO LOVE GOD & OTHERS.**

**GENESIS 2: 7-8** VINE BREATH

## 38-39 HOPE FOR THE NATIONS

**GOD DEFEATS EVIL AMONG THE NATIONS**

**GOG**

ANCIENT KINGDOM FROM GENESIS 10

DESCRIPTION OF GOG = DESCRIPTION OF KINGS OF TYRE & EGYPT

ARCHETYPE OF HUMAN REBELLION

**EARTHQUAKE**

**THESE SCENES ARE FULL OF SYMBOLS & IMAGERY ABOUT GOD'S FINAL DEFEAT OF EVIL**

## 40-48 HOPE FOR ALL CREATION

**40-46** VISION OF A NEW TEMPLE

**THE MEANING OF THE VISIONS?**

- LITERAL BLUEPRINTS OF NEW TEMPLE IN THE FUTURE MESSIANIC KINGDOM.
- SYMBOLIC DEPICTION OF GOD'S PRESENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM.

**DEAD SEA VALLEY**

**47-48** NEW GARDEN OF EDEN: "THE LORD IS THERE"



# The God of Glory

***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. Have you ever felt abandoned by God? What circumstances might lead you to feel like that?

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

Ezekiel was among the exiles who were taken into Babylon. During Ezekiel's ministry, the Israelites who remained in Palestine unsuccessfully rebelled against Babylon. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

**READ Ezekiel 1-2:8**

2. Why is it significant that Ezekiel sees this vision of God in Babylon?

3. Why do you think it is significant that God is on the throne with wheels?

4. What do the eyes on the wheels tell us about God?

5. How does Ezekiel respond to this vision of the glory of God (v28)?

**READ Ezekiel 3:1-7**

6. Why do you think that people (today and all throughout history) keep moving away from God-centered living? What is the reason that people reject God's word?

7. How are you tempted to move away from God-centered living. How does this opening vision from Ezekiel help you to remember who God is and what he has done?

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

**READ John 1:14**

8. This passage tells that God has revealed his glory to us through Jesus. Take time now to pray and give thanks for the fact that we can know God and we have seen his glory through Jesus.

	Committee of Management	Wed 5th Aug 7:30pm
	Women's Event	Sat 8th Aug 9:30-11:30am
	GC Vision Coordinator Meeting	Wed 12th Aug 7:30pm



# The God of 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.



BIG IDEA

Read Ezekiel 1-2:8, Ezekiel 3:1-7, and John 1:14

1. How would you summarise the central message of these passages?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How do these passages relate to, or contribute to, your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions have these passages raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to these passages in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



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



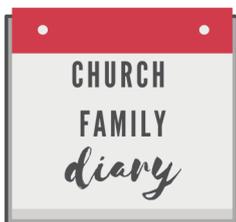
In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)



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# The God of Judgement

***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 do people respond to the idea of judgement in our culture? Do you ever sense any discrepancies in their thinking? Why?

2. How does the age of entitlement affect the way in which we view ourselves? Discuss.

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

READ Ezekiel 10:1-8

3. What memory from Ezekiel does verse 1 trigger? What emotions could this generate? (See also Exodus 24:9-10)

4. Verse 2 is particularly ominous; what does it mean?

5. How does verse 7 enact the city's destiny?

## READ Ezekiel 10:9-22

6. How does verse 18 strike at the very heart of Yahweh's relationship with Israel?

7. Are the cherubim identified in verse 20 a sign or blessing or curse?

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

8. We cannot begin to understand how frightening the scene in Ezekiel 10 must have been to God's people. For too long, they had presumed upon their covenant relationship with Yahweh. When are you tempted to presume upon your relationship with the true and living God?

9. Ezekiel outlines the horror of the glory of God leaving the people of God. Reflect upon our series from last term 'The Good News We Almost Forgot'. Why is the eternal promise of the Spirit so astounding?

 CHURCH FAMILY diary	Committee of Management	Wed 5th Aug 7:30pm
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# The God of Judgement

## 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.



BIG IDEA

### Read Ezekiel 10

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How do these passages relate to, or contribute to, your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions have these passages raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to these passages in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



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



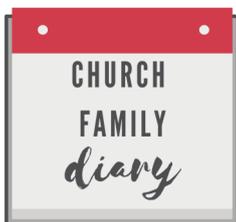
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C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)



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# The God of the Nations

***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. Do you know anyone of other faiths and cultures? How do you feel about telling them about Jesus?

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

READ Ezekiel 26:1-6

2. What was Ezekiel's message to Tyre in 26:3 (and all the nations? See Ezekiel 28:22, 29:3, 29:10, 30:22)?

3. How does this compare to Ezekiel's message to Israel (see 5:8)?

4. What was Ezekiel's message to the nations in 26:6 (see also 28:22-24, 29:6-9, 30:25-26, 32:15)?

5. How does this compare to Ezekiel's message to Israel (see 6:10-14)?

6. What is beneath these similarities? What is it that Israel, all nations and everyone on earth has in common?

7. Ezekiel shows that God is the God of ALL nations. What happens when people believe that the God of the bible is ONLY the God of Israel (or Christians)?

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

8. How might these chapters in Ezekiel help us to respond to someone who believes that all religions lead to God?

9. How should the truth that God is the God of all nations affect our prayers, evangelism, friendships etc.? How can our appreciation for God's grace toward us in Jesus, help us to point others to him for salvation?

	GC Vision Coordinator Meeting	Wed 12th Aug 7:30pm
	The Lounge Room	Wed 19th Aug 11am-1:30pm
	Equip: Seeing Through the Storm	Tues 25th Aug 7:30pm



# The God of the Nations

## 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.



BIG IDEA

Read Ezekiel 26:1-6

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How do these passages relate to, or contribute to, your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions have these passages raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to these passages in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



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



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# The God of Hope

***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. Have you ever felt homesick? Why? What sort of emotion did it create for you?

2. Why is 'the silent treatment' one of the cruelest ways we can distance ourselves relationally?

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

## **READ Ezekiel 36:16-21**

3. Verses 16-21 graphically reveal the nature of Israel's sin. What is it that sits at the core of their rebellion?

## **READ Ezekiel 36:22-32**

4. Verse 24 is brimming with hope! How is this likened to a new Exodus?

4. What radical surgery will need to be completed by God? Why?

## READ Ezekiel 36:33-36

5. How is verse 35 partially climactic for the book as a whole?

6. Just as the curses of the covenant were fulfilled (cf Deut 28:15-68), how does verse 36 point forward to the promise of restoration (cf Deu 30:1-10)?

## READ Ezekiel 36:37-38

7. These verses represent a dramatic shift in the relationship between God and his people. How?

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

8. With restored hearts no longer under the tyranny of sin and shame, we are invited to communion with God. Do you enjoy God?

9. Is yours a life lived for the glory and praise of the Lord? How could you more comfortably proclaim the fame of God?

 The logo for 'Church Family Diary' features a red header with two white dots, the words 'CHURCH' and 'FAMILY' in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'diary' in a cursive script below.	The Lounge Room	Wed 19th Aug 11am-1:30pm
	Equip: Seeing Through the Storm	Tues 25th Aug 7:30pm
	Father's Day	Sun 6th Sept



# The God of Hope

## 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.



BIG IDEA

Read Ezekiel 36:16-38

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in these passages about yourself or your circumstances?



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# Seeing Through the Storm

Gaining clarity on the challenges of mental health

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



### DR CAROLYN RUSSELL

Carolyn is a parent with husband Norton, of 3 grown children and their spouses, and recently has become a Nana to Gwendolyn...she is having fun with all these people!

She is a GP and therapist, primarily working in relationships counselling through her mental health practice in Brisbane.

Carolyn loves to sew, dye, cook, make music, ride bikes, and kayak!

## NOTES

# NOTES



# The God of the Future

***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 Heaven/the new creation will be like?

2. What are you looking forward to the most in Heaven?

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

READ Ezekiel 40:1-9

3. Is this an actual location Ezekiel is taken to? Why/Why not? Consider chapters 40-46. What seems to be so central in all of these chapters? Why?

READ Ezekiel 43:1-12

4. How does this passage contrast with what has happened earlier in Ezekiel (e.g. Ezekiel 10:18-22, see also Ezekiel 43:3)?

5. What does God expect the people to know and do in response to what He has done for them and most importantly for His holy name?

READ John 1:14 and John 2:13-21

6. How is it that God ultimately fulfils Ezekiel's vision of the temple? Why?

7. Contrast Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1-3. What are the similarities and differences?

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

8. Ezekiel's vision of God's people in God's place under God's rule totally committed to God (e.g. Ezekiel 36: 25-28) finds its fulfilment through Jesus. What does this mean for you as you trust in Jesus now? Read 1 Peter 2:1-12. What does it mean as you look forward to His final return where Ezekiel's vision will be completely fulfilled?

 CHURCH FAMILY diary	Father's Day	Sun 6th Sept
	Celebration SATURDAY!	Sat 19th Sept
	Safari Lite	Sat 3rd—Mon 5th Oct



# The God of the Future

## 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.*



**BIG IDEA**

Read Ezekiel 40:1-9, Ezekiel 43:1-12, John 1:14, and John 2:13-21

1. How would you summarise the central message of these passages?



**WINDOW**

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



**MIRROR**

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



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Safari Lite	Sat 3rd—Mon 5th Oct



# Visionaries: Augustine

***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. Where do you think people look for love?
2. How is a hunger for contentment and rest, exhibited in our culture?

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

READ 1 John 4:7-21

3. Where is love's origin?
4. What is love's definition? How is it seen?
5. Exactly how is love to flow in our lives? What will be a marker of its presence?
6. How do we know if God resides in human hearts?

7. If we have found love and rest in the love of God, what ought to be the fruit of that love? Who benefits?

8. Augustine opens one of his most famous works called *Confessions* with this theme that encapsulates the whole of the book:

*“You arouse us to delight in praising you, for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.”*

How does this reflect the longing of our culture and our own lives? Have you found rest?

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

9. Reflect on these lyrics from the song ‘Rest in You’. What resonates with you?

*Who is Lord, but our Lord  
Who is God, only God  
You are the highest  
You are most good*

*Our hearts are restless  
Until they find rest in You  
Our hearts are restless  
Until they find rest in You*

*Matchless is Your love  
Our praise will rise above  
Your peace like a river  
Floods over us*

*This is where my hope lies  
This is where my soul sighs  
I will always find my rest in You*

Songwriters: Leslie Jordan / David Leonard / Cara Fox  
Rest In You Lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

	Celebration SATURDAY!	Sat 19th Sept
	Safari Lite	Sat 3rd—Mon 5th Oct



# Visionaries: Augustine

## 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.



BIG IDEA

Read 1 John 4:7-21

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

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



MIRROR

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



GOSPEL

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



5. What questions have these passages raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to these passages in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. 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

S upplication (asking)



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# Visionaries: Spurgeon

***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 is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
2. Where do you think people look for knowledge and wisdom in our society?

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

READ 1 Corinthians 2

3. What was the sum total of Paul's message?

4. Where does faith come from?

5. What comes *with faith in Jesus?*

6. Verses 9, 10, 11 and 16 talk about the mysteries of 'what God has prepared', 'the deep things of God', 'the thoughts of God' and 'the mind of God'. Are these still a mystery? Who has understood?

7. How have the mysteries of God, the wisdom of God, been revealed?

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

8. Charles Spurgeon once preached:

*"Of all I would wish to say this is the sum; my brethren, preach CHRIST, always and evermore. He is the whole gospel. His person, his offices, and work must be our one great, all-comprehending theme. The world needs still to be told of it's Saviour and of the way to reach him. The best way to preach sinners to Christ is to preach Christ to sinners."*

How does this reflect Paul's own ministry to the Corinthians? How might this affect the way you share the gospel with others?

9. How can you make the most of having 'the mind of Christ' in understanding and sharing the wisdom of God?

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# Visionaries: Spurgeon

## Preparation Questions

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BIG IDEA

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QUESTIONS

5. What questions have these passages raised for you that remain unanswered?



RESPONSE

6. How will you respond to these passages in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



SHARE

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



PRAY

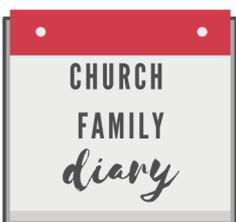
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Celebration SATURDAY!

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# The God of Glory

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# The God of Judgement

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# The God of the Nations

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# The God of Hope

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# The God of Life

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# The God of the Future

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# Visionaries: Augustine

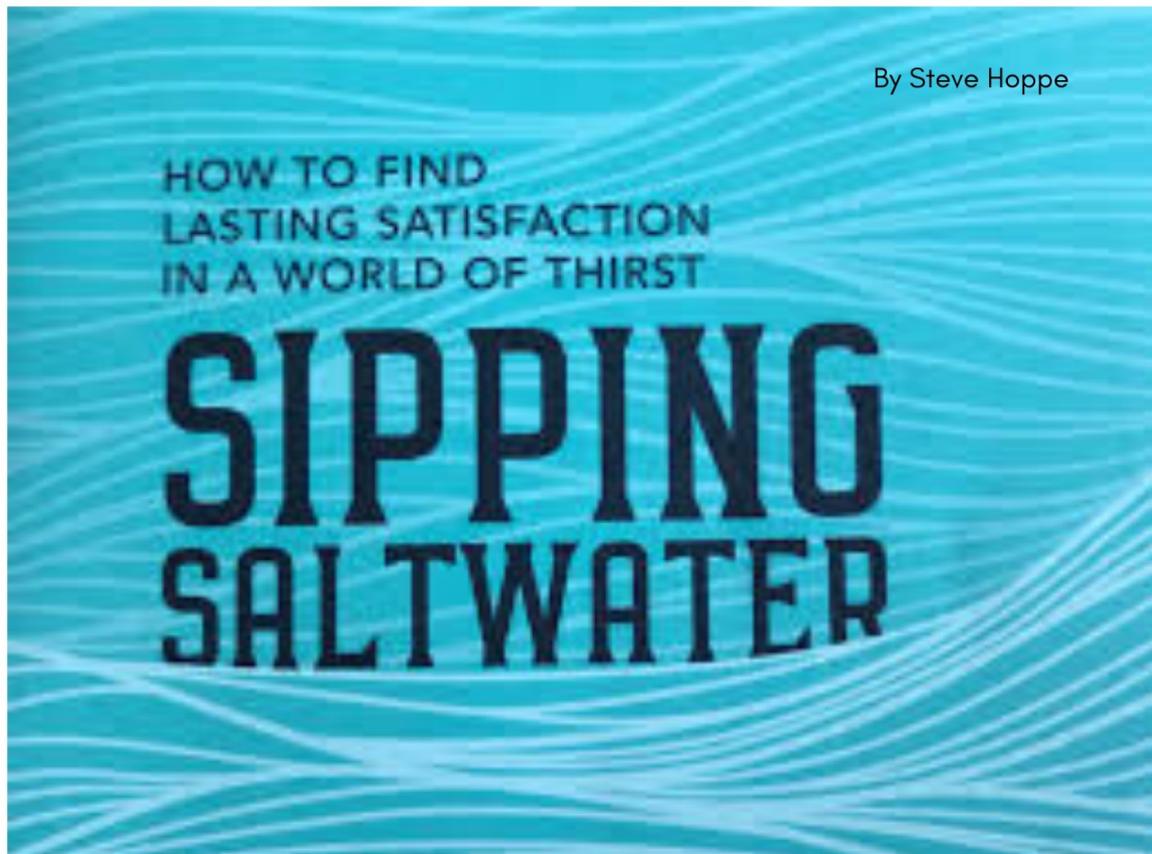
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# Visionaries: Spurgeon

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# SCPC Book Club Term 3 2020



## READING SCHEDULE

### **DATE**

20 July - 26 July

27 July - 2 Aug

3 Aug - 9 Aug

10 Aug - 16 Aug

17 Aug - 23 Aug

24 Aug - 30 Aug

31 Aug - 6 Sept

7 Sept - 10 Sept

Thursday 10 Sept

### **CHAPTER**

Intro & Chapters 1 & 2

Chapters 3 & 4

Chapters 5 & 6

Chapters 7 & 8

Chapters 9 & 10

Chapters 11 & 12

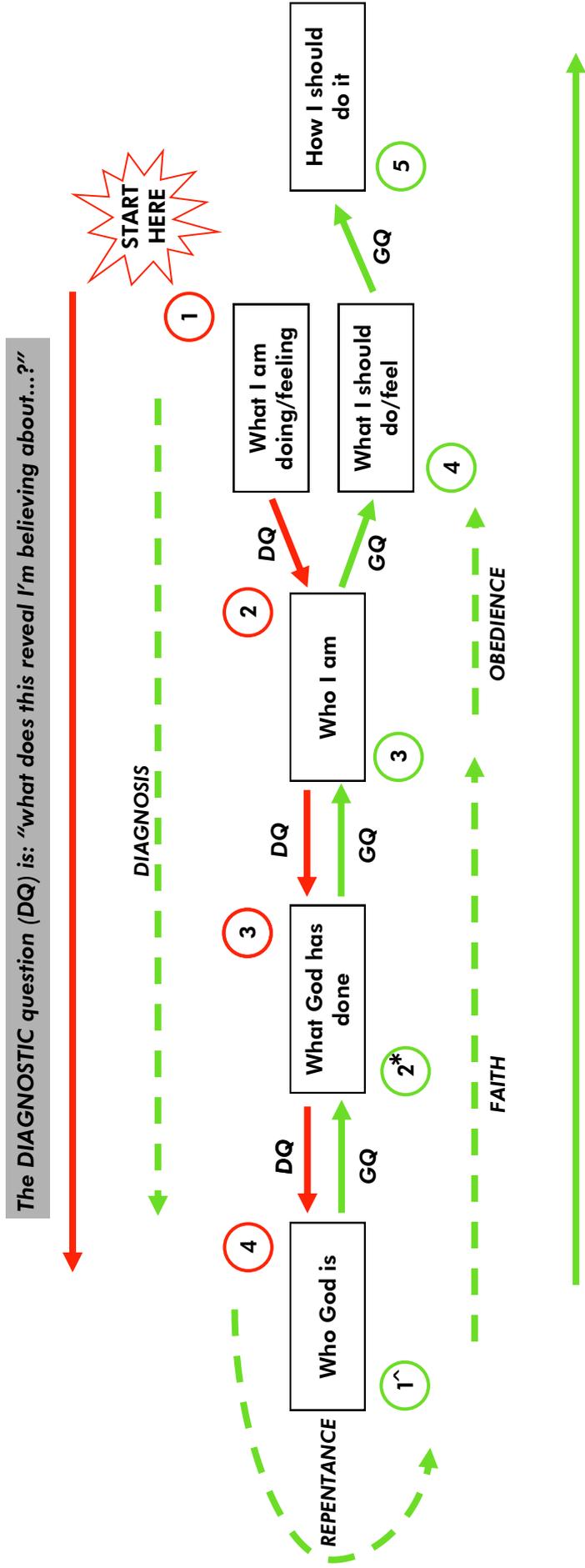
Chapters 13 & 14

Chapters 15 & Outro

Discussion Night

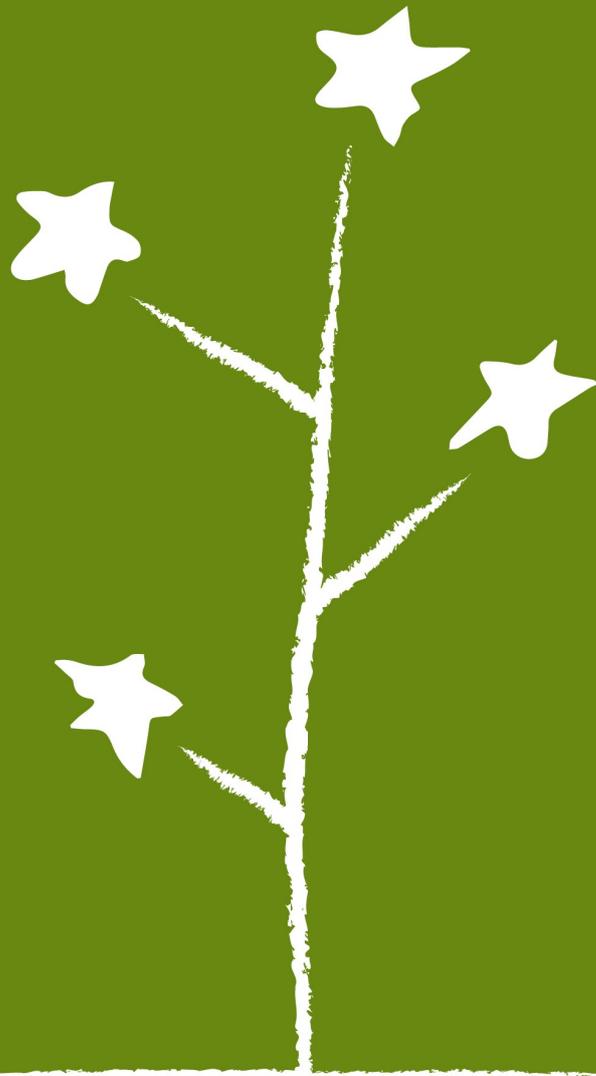
# 5 questions for gospel growth

## (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.



**SOUTHERN CROSS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*growing followers of Jesus*