



BELIEVE AND LIVE

ABIDING WITH JESUS IN JOHN 13-21



TERM 4, 2023

DNA BOOKLET




TERM OVERVIEW

“ **James Ritchie**
Preaching and Mission Pastor ”



I remember when I first moved out of home. It was a momentous choice, and of course involved moving all my things to a new place. Once I arrived, however, the challenge was learning to live with my new housemates.

In John 13-21 the focus is on living with Jesus. If we've already believed in Jesus, what does it look like to live with him? I'm looking forward to better learning how to 'abide' with Jesus as we hear his words to us about this across these chapters. I hope you are too.

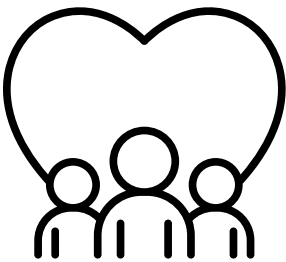




HOW TO BE GROWING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

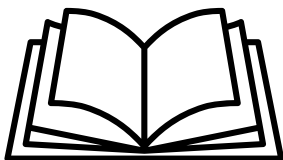
IN COMMUNITY

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”.



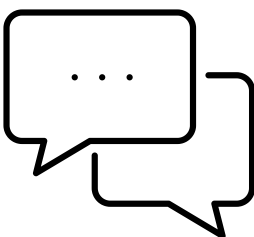
WORD TO LIFE

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!



SAVE THE DATE...

SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BLOKES GO BACON

November 5, 2023

SHARED BREAKFAST AND DEVOTION FROM
8AM @ EVANS HEAD (NEAR KIOSK)



RSVP VIA QR CODE



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WITH QUIZ WORX PUPPETS PRESENT

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS MERRY?



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE
SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER, 5PM
LISMORE HIGH SCHOOL

LIST OF STUDIES

WEEK

01

15 Oct - [LOVED TO THE END](#) John 13

02

22 Oct - [THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE](#) John 14:1-14

03

29 Oct - [THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT](#) John 14:15-31

04

5 Nov - [THE VINE](#) John 15:1-14

05

12 Nov - [TESTIFY](#) John 15:18-16:33

06

19 Nov - [EXTRAVAGANT UNITY](#) John 17

07

26 Nov - [VISION SUNDAY](#) (study on website soon)

08

3 Dec - [BETRAYAL, TRIAL, CRUCIFIXION](#) John 18-19

09

10 Dec - [BELIEVE AND LIVE](#) John 20

10

17 Dec - [BREAKFAST WITH JESUS](#) John 21



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...

What is one of the most loving things someone has done for you?

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...



JOHN 13:1-17

1. From our journey in John's gospel, what is Jesus alluding to regarding 'the hour'?
2. What is the great paradox of verses 3-5?
3. How do the disciples respond to Jesus' act?

4. What exactly has Jesus done for them?

5. How could the disciples reflect that they have understood Jesus' teaching?

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...

6. What is unique about Jesus' display of power in this episode?

7. Why is servant leadership so hard to find?

8. Australian pastor John Dickson defines humility in this way:

"The noble choice to forgo your status, deploy your resources or use your influence for the good of others before yourself."

Have you ever made this choice? Why/Why not?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

4 Nov | BLOKES GO BACON

02

THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

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...

What are some doubts, uncertainties and fears that Christians face as they follow 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...



JOHN 14:1-14

1. Look back at John 13 (particularly vs 21-38). What things would have troubled the disciples during this time with Jesus?
2. What is amazingly comforting in Jesus' response to the troubled hearts of the disciples (14:1-4)?
3. What does the question from Thomas (v.5) and the statement from Philip (v.8) reveal about their hearts at this time?

4. What is wonderful and surprising about Jesus' response to Thomas' question?

5. How does Jesus respond to Philip's statement? And what could he be pointing to in verses 12-14 (look to 14:15-31 if necessary)?

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...

6. How do you relate to what the disciples are feeling and struggling with in this passage in your own Christian walk?

7. How does Jesus comfort and reassure you when you face these times? How does this passage comfort you now?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

4 Nov | BLOKES GO BACON

03

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY 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...

What would you say if someone asked if you are a "spiritual person"?

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...



JOHN 14:15-31

1. What are your initial reactions to verse 15 (and verse 23)?
2. In verse 16, Jesus promises 'another' helper. What does this imply for the disciples?
3. What day do you think Jesus is speaking about in verse 20?
4. Does Jesus answer Judas' question?

5. What insights do we get from verses 16 and 26 about the relationships within the Trinity?

6. In verse 27, Jesus says “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” The early church doesn’t face a ‘peaceful’ road ahead, so what does Jesus mean?

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...

7. In verse 17, Jesus says the Spirit will live with (and in) believers. Is this something you think about often? Does the Spirit residing in you impact the way you think, feel, and/or act?

8. Jesus makes five promises regarding the coming of the Holy Spirit across John 14-16. Discuss how the Spirit works to achieve these promises in your life and in the life of believers.

- *14:16 Another Helper, the Spirit of Truth* - The Holy Spirit helps us to follow and obey Jesus.
- *14:26 The Teacher* - The Holy Spirit will teach and remind the disciples (and ultimately us) all that Jesus said.
- *15:26-27 The Witness* - The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus in people’s lives and enables us to also testify.
- *16:7-11 The Prosecutor* - The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgement.
- *16:13-15 The Guide* - The Holy Spirit glorifies the Father by guiding Christians in the truth of the Gospel.



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

4 Nov | BLOKES GO BACON

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...

Do you enjoy gardening? What are the challenges associated with it?

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...



JOHN 15:1-17

1. In the metaphor who is the vine, the gardener and the branches? Why do you think Jesus uses this metaphor?
2. How does Isaiah 5:1-7 help us understand what Jesus means when he says he is the true vine?

3. What is the role of the gardener? What is the role of the vine? What must the branches do?

4. What is the fruit that Jesus refers to here?

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...

5. For you personally, does this passage feel more like a firm warning or a comforting encouragement?

6. How can you remain/abide in Jesus?

7. Which area of your life and/or heart do you need to pray for the Father to prune (so that you may be more fruitful)?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE
26 Nov | VISION SUNDAY

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...

What does it mean to be “spiritual” in our world today? Is it a good thing?

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...



JOHN 15:18-16:33

1. What are the connections between Jesus and his disciples in this passage (15:18-21, 15:26-27, 16:26-27, 16:33)? How would you summarise the relationship pictured here?
2. How is the relationship between the Father and Son described in this passage (15:23-24, 15:26, 16:15, 16:26-28, 16:33)?

3. According to Jesus, what is the role of the Holy Spirit (15:26-27, 16:7-10, 16:13-15)? How closely linked is the Spirit's ministry to Jesus' ministry?

4. How is what Jesus says here different to:

a) How Christians often understand the work of the Spirit?

b) What the world thinks about being “spiritual”?

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...

5. What does it look like for a Christian today to testify about Jesus? How does the Spirit help us in this task?

6. What's your 'take away' from this passage? (Your 'take away' is the thing you'd like to remember or put into practice in your life).



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

26 Nov | VISION SUNDAY

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...

What is the most surprising thing you've ever been given?

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...



JOHN 17:1-26

1. Jesus prays for himself (v1-5), his disciples (v6-19) and all who will believe in him (v20-26). What are the key things he prays for in each of these areas?

For himself:

For his disciples:

For all who will believe:

2. Where does this prayer fit in the storyline of John's gospel? How does this help us understand why Jesus prays for what he does?

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...

3. According to Jesus, what is eternal life? How might knowing this reshape or refocus what you are longing for in life?

4. Unity is a huge theme in this prayer. How is that unity described? Why, and how, must we pursue it in our own community?

5. In verses 20-26, Jesus speaks about us being given the glory and love that the Father has given him. Think back to all the descriptions of Jesus' glory and eternal relationship with his Father throughout John - what could Jesus mean here?

6. Don Carson writes that verse 23 is "*breathtakingly extravagant*" and that "*it is hard to imagine a more compelling evangelistic appeal*". How do we communicate to others the extravagance of what Jesus offers here?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

26 Nov | VISION SUNDAY

08

BETRAYAL, TRIAL, CRUCIFIXION

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...

What surprises you most about the crucifixion of 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...



JOHN 18:1-19:16

Use character interviews to explore the passage. Nominate a different group member to play the role of Judas, Peter, the Jewish leaders, Pilate and Jesus.

The rest of the group takes turns interviewing each of the characters one at a time. The group reads over the passage and then asks questions like:

- *Why did you do that..?*
- *What did you think when...?*
- *What did you mean when you said...?*
- *What's important to you?*

The character being interviewed then seeks to answer the question by looking at the bible for the answers. The group can, of course, talk together about the answer where helpful as well.

The goal of doing the study this way is to help us get into the story and understand the people and how they experienced the events.

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...

What did you learn through this process about:

Jesus?

Jesus' death?

People?

Yourself?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE



JOHN 20:1-31

[illegible]

2. John 20:30-31 is John's purpose statement for the whole book. He writes to show people Jesus, so that they would believe in him and live (remember our series titles - *Come and See, See and Believe and Believe and Live*). How has the gospel of John impacted you over this year?

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...

3. After discussing your answers together, individually prepare a couple of sentences, poem, haiku, short song or picture reflecting on John's gospel.

4. How have the past three terms in John equipped you to help others believe and live?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

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...

Does sin disqualify us from serving 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...



JOHN 21:1-25

1. Compare the beginning (1:1-18) and end (21:1-25) of John's gospel. What are the similarities and differences? Why do you think John chooses to end the story this way?
2. In 18:15-18 and 18:25-27 Peter denies Jesus three times. Here he professes his love for him three times. What is going on? Why is Peter hurt the third time Jesus asks?

3. Three times Jesus tells Peter to care for his sheep. Why does Jesus keep emphasising that?

4. What does this simple story show us about the character of Jesus?

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...

5. Are there things you've done that get in the way of (or stop) you serving Jesus?
How does this story speak into your situation?

6. What have you liked most about our three terms in John's gospel?



COMING UP IN SCPC LIFE

24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE



**SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

growing followers of Jesus

October 2023