

FOLLOW ME

A SERIES IN LUKE 9:51 - 14:35

TERM 3, 2025

DNA BOOKLET

TERM OVERVIEW

Luke 9:51 says Jesus *"resolutely set out for Jerusalem"*. Literally it reads, *"He set his face to go to Jerusalem"*.

Jesus is fixed, focused on going to the cross to die for our sins. Yet it takes him ten chapters to even arrive in Jerusalem.

The section from Luke 9:51 to 19:10 is called the travel narrative. Jesus is on the road to the cross and on that journey, he calls out to us and commands us to *"Follow me"*. The section begins (9:59) and ends (18:22) with Jesus making that declaration.

Across Term 3 (Luke 9:51-14:35) and Term 4 (Luke 15:1-19:10), we will be journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem. We'll be challenged again and again about the huge cost of following Jesus, yet we'll also be encouraged again and again about the wide-open invitation of grace that Jesus extends.

I hope you're looking forward to the term ahead in God's word.

James Ritchie
Preaching & Mission Pastor



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!



faithful

IN EVERY SEASON

CELEBRATION SUNDAY - 21 SEPTEMBER, 2025

For some of us we will have had a great year with much to be thankful about, for others this past year will have been incredibly difficult. But whatever sort of year we've had, we have a God who is faithful and unfailing in every season.

This year at Celebration Sunday, we want to celebrate Him together. It's a moment to pause, reflect on the year that's been and remind one another that our God is faithful, reliable, unchanging and always true.

To help us do that, we're inviting you to respond to one (or more!) of the following questions:

- 1. How have you experienced the faithfulness of God?*
- 2. As you think about SCPC life over the past year, how have you seen God's faithfulness?*
- 3. What are some things that have helped you appreciate God's faithfulness?*

We'll be filming people's answers during morning tea and supper on two Sundays - August 10 and 17. Each answer can be up to 30 seconds long.

We'd love you to take part so that we can help one another to rejoice in God. You may like to think about your answer beforehand and prepare a written script.

We'll aim to include as many answers as possible on the day. Depending on how many responses we receive, some may be edited for clarity or time, and not all may be shown.

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...

If you asked someone in our town what Jesus' mission was, what do you think they may say?

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 LUKE 9:51-62

1. What could be significant about Jesus' resolution in heading for his destination?

2. How does the section 9:57-62 make you feel? What do you think Jesus intends to communicate through it?



READ LUKE 10:1-24

3. How does verse 2 anticipate the success of the task ahead?

4. From vv5-16 Jesus has stern words for those who reject him? Why?

5. In vv17-24 how are we to truly see Jesus?

If you are interested in a provocative approach to the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), head to <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/sermon/unlikely-goodness/>

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 expect the fact that Jesus has his eyes set for Jerusalem to affect the angle of this section of Luke 9:51-14:35? What sort of lessons would you personally expect to learn?

7. It's said that chaplaincy is making Christ known in invisible places in our community. In Aussie Evangelist Sam Chan's book, '*How to Talk About Jesus Without Being That Guy*', he encourages us all to be our non-Christian friends and families de facto (or unofficial) chaplain! Could that be you? Why/Why not?

8. We have a mission at SCPC to seek first Christ's kingdom. How can you play your part in that?

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...

When is obedience valued? When is it not?

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 LUKE 10:38-11:36

1. In 10:38-42, why does Jesus praise Mary and not Martha? What is surprising about the story?
2. In our own Australian Christian culture, how highly do we prize sitting and listening to Jesus' words? How important to us is obedience to Jesus' teaching?
3. In 11:1-36 Jesus teaches on prayer (vv1-13), demonic forces (vv14-28), judgment (vv29-32) and light (vv33-36). Look at each of these sections separately and answer the following questions for each one: What is Jesus teaching in this section and what do I most need to learn from it?

	What is Jesus teaching?	What do I need to learn?
vv29-32		
vv14-28		
vv29-32		
vv33-36		

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...

4. What seemingly important things are keeping you busy, and distracting you from listening to Jesus?

5. What makes Jesus so worth listening to?



Celebration Sunday

In preparation for Celebration Sunday take the time to prepare a short (30 second max.) answer for one (or more!) of the following questions.

Share your answers with one another now and be open to sharing your answers this Sunday (10 August) and next Sunday (17 August) after each gathering as we film as many people as we can in anticipation for Celebration Sunday.

How have you experienced the faithfulness of God?



As you think about SCPC life over the past year, how have you seen God's faithfulness?



What are some things that have helped you appreciate God's faithfulness?



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...

Discuss the following quote: *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9).

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...

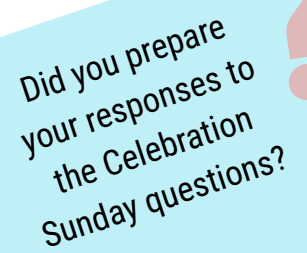


READ LUKE 11:37-54

1. Why is the Pharisee surprised by Jesus?

2. What is at the heart of Jesus' critique of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

3. Do you think Jesus is harsh in his critique? Why/why not?



Did you prepare
your responses to
the Celebration
Sunday questions?

4. Why do our hearts matter so much more to Jesus than how we appear on the outside?

5. How does Jesus meet your deepest 'heart need' in the gospel?

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. Why do you think we so often worry about, and focus more on, how we are perceived by others than on the character of our heart?

7. Often, for Christians, there is the danger that we begin the Christian life with humility and confession of sin, but as time goes, we lose some of that attitude. Have you noticed that in yourself?

8. What trajectory is your life on? Are you moving more towards an outward appearance of godliness or towards genuine humility before Christ?

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 have any strange or peculiar fears?

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 LUKE 12:1-12

1. In vv2-3 Jesus says all secrets will be exposed. How is this a warning for us? How could it be a comfort?

2. In vv4-5 Jesus could have simply said "*fear God, not man*". Why do you think he uses such strong language?

3. Read vv4-5, 6-7, 11-12, 22, 32. What do we need to fear? What don't we need to fear? Why?

4. Why do you think publicly acknowledging Jesus is such a big deal? (vv8-9)

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 things do you find yourself fearing more than God?

6. How could you grow in your fear of the Lord?

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 of the biggest blind spots (or dangers) for Christians when it comes to money?

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 LUKE 12:13-34

1. What circumstances give rise to the parable of the rich fool? (vv13-14)
2. What's the main point of the parable (vv16-21)?
3. As a Christian, is it okay to find security in both finances and God? Discuss.

4. What do you learn from the whole passage about how to approach money, wealth and possessions?

5. How does what Jesus says here free us from the need to worry about our financial situation? (Especially vv22-34)

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. Are there ways you're tempted to pursue the life of the rich fool? What might it look like to guard yourself against that?

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 situations where being ready or unprepared made a major difference 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...



READ LUKE 12:35-13:21

1. What is the point of Jesus' parable in 12:35-40?
2. What is the point of his parable in 12:41-48? How are the two parables related?
3. How might Jesus' teaching on division in 12:49-53 be unsettling for us? How might it be comforting?

5. How is 13:18-21 a huge encouragement to followers of Jesus?

6. In what ways does this passage as a whole demonstrate Jesus' love for his people?

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. If Jesus were to return today, what would you want to be found doing?

8. Is the way you live, and the choices you make, reflective of the reality of Jesus' return, or are there different future events that dominate your life more? How do we both live in this world, yet also live for the coming new world?

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 best feast you've ever been to?

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 LUKE 13.22-14.24

1. What does Jesus mean when he says, *'the last will be first and the first will be last'*?
2. What is the point of the parable in 14:7-11? What does it look like in practice for us to live this out?
3. In 14:15-24 what do the metaphors of a banquet, an excuse and an invitation each point to?

4. How does the parable in 14:15-24 show both inclusivity and exclusivity of the gospel?

5. In view of the whole passage (and especially 13:29-30 and 14:15-24), who is the gospel message for today?

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. Who is someone you would like to extend a gospel invitation to? How can the rest of the group support you in this?

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 biggest "mic drop" statement you have ever heard anyone say? *

** In urban slang, "mic drop" refers to an action or statement so impactful and definitive that it effectively ends a discussion or performance.*

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 LUKE 14:25-27

1. Jesus has moved from a meal with a smaller group to the crowd. What does Jesus' harsh statement in verse 26 mean in this context?

2. How about verse 27? What does it mean? How might our understanding today differ to the audience then? (Hint: remember verse 9:51 – Jesus knows where he is going – no one else does!)



READ LUKE 14:28-31

3. How are these two examples an invitation to discipleship?



READ LUKE 14:34-35

4. How are vv34-35 a consequence to the other verses we have read in this study?

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. Does discipleship of Jesus scare you? Why?

6. Have you truly counted the cost of following Jesus? Discuss.

7. Author of Honest Evangelism Rico Tice was bullied at school for following Jesus. He is now an evangelist. This is what he says about evangelism:

I find evangelism hard. The problem of me now being an evangelist is that people assume that you find evangelism effortless; but I don't find it easy and never have. For me telling people about Jesus has often been nerve-wracking.

But it has been joyful. I have felt some of that soaring joy over the years as I have seen the Lord seek and find lost people.

How is this a boost to you in encouraging others to follow Jesus?



SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRINTED JULY 2025