

FOLLOW ME

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME
TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST

TERM 4, 2025

DNA BOOKLET

TERM OVERVIEW

The Bible is full of surprises.

Last term, when we began our journey with Jesus in Luke 9:51-19:27, I expected it to be straightforward. Yet I found it to be much more personally challenging than what I expected (including Jesus' teaching on discipleship, hypocrisy, fearing the Lord, money and so on). I also discovered parts of the Bible I'd apparently overlooked before. It was not the smooth ride I (foolishly) thought...

As we continue from chapter 15:1 through to 19:27 this term, can I encourage you to expect to be surprisingly impacted by his word - maybe even cut to the core by your sin, maybe filled with joy by the way Jesus calls the lost home - I pray God uses our time together in DNA studies to be bringing about this sort of thing in our lives.



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!

OUTDOOR FAMILY CAROLS



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ALONG WITH QUIZ WORX PRESENT

THE BEST PRESENT EVER!

DECEMBER 21, 6PM
@ LISMORE HIGH SCHOOL

FREE FOOD & FUN!
PUPPET SHOW & CAROLS



You're invited to our Outdoor Family Carols – a fun and festive night for the whole community!

Come along for an evening filled with **free** food, fun, music, and joy as we celebrate *The Best Present Ever!*

There'll be a **free** sausage sizzle and drinks and plenty of activities for the kids – including a lively puppet show that's sure to bring smiles all around.

We'll sing our hearts out with Christmas carols, celebrating together the hope and wonder of Christmas.

Everything's free, and everyone's welcome – so bring your picnic rug, invite your neighbours, and join us as we celebrate **THE BEST PRESENT EVER!**

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 have been some especially joyful moments in your life?

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 15:1-10

1. What is the context Jesus is speaking in (vv1-3)? Why is that significant for how we understand the chapter?
2. What stands out from the first parable?
3. What stands out from the second parable? Are there any differences? Why do you think Jesus tells both?

4. A huge theme in both parables is the joy in heaven over a sinner who repents. Read:

- Zephaniah 3:17,
- Isaiah 62:2-5,
- Isaiah 65:18-19, and
- Nehemiah 8:10.

What do we learn about God's joy from these (and Luke 15:1-10)?

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. Why do you (personally) need to be shown and reminded of God's joy?

6. Tax collectors and sinners were deeply attracted to Jesus (v1). How can you grow in yourself more of Jesus' heart for sinners? Is there anything that needs to change in your attitude?

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 radical examples of forgiveness you know of?

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 15:11-32

1. What are some similarities and differences between this parable and the previous two parables?
2. What are the consequences of the younger brother's sin?
3. Did you, or anybody you know, become a Christian in a similar way to the younger brother? Share.

4. What are the similarities and differences between the two brothers?

5. Considering his actions towards both brothers, how would you describe the father in this story?

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. Discuss some ways that we can fall into 'younger brother' or 'older brother' behaviour. Which brother are you more like?

7. How does this parable challenge *and* comfort us?

8. How can this parable be used in both discipleship and mission?

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 you think of 'being shrewd' do you see that as a positive or negative? Why?

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 16:1-31

1. Why does the master commend the dishonest manager?
2. What does Jesus mean in v9? (Do vv10-15 provide any additional clues to its meaning?)
3. What are some examples of being 'shrewd' for the eternal kingdom (include one from your own life if possible)?

4. How could you grow in your 'kingdom shrewdness'?

5. Who is the target audience of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus?
What do you need to learn from it?

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. The theme of money and wealth is all over this chapter. At the centre is v13, where Jesus says you cannot serve God and money. Is he right?

7. Which are you serving: God or money?

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...

Why do you think humans love to rank people's worthiness?

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 17:1-10

1. Jesus' profound teaching in vv1-4 possibly triggers the disciples' statement in v5. Why?

2. Could vv7-10 be a protection about pride developing with the faith of v6? Discuss.



READ LUKE 17:11-19

3. Faith seems on display again with the ten lepers. However, what is different with the Samaritans' response?

4. Australian Evangelical Leon Morris made this comment regarding v19.

"It may be that Jesus recognises in this man the faith that issues in salvation and so he sent him off with the assurance that it is well with his soul as it was with his body. Full restoration means a saved soul as well as a sound body".

Do you agree? Why/Why not?

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. How do you find forgiveness challenging?

6. Are you tempted to be proud about your faith? Why/Why not?

7. Orthodox Christianity (i.e. Biblical Christianity) can create proud and arrogant Christians. To guard against this, pastor-theologians have suggested that a growing awareness of God shows him to be holy and set apart, leading to greater and greater humility in the believer... So, attempt to draw this:

- The vision of God increases,
- our pride decreases, and
- the cross grows in our vision, in between.

How did you go!?

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...

Why do you think people get so fascinated with end times? Is this positive or negative?

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 17:20-37

1. What is the kingdom? What does *"behold the kingdom is in your midst"* mean?
2. How is the warning Jesus gives in v24 relevant to us today? What does the metaphor of lightning communicate?
3. Why does Jesus mention the days of Noah and Lot?

4. What does v33 mean in the context?

5. How do vv34-35 highlight the personalness of Jesus' return? What don't they 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...

6. What does it look like for us to live fully in view of Jesus' coming without developing an unhealthy fascination around it?

Look out for a digital copy of the study in *SCPC Life* on Friday, November 21!

Paper copies will be available at our gatherings on Sunday, November 23.

What shines out from this passage? What insight did it provide?

What is an “old truth” that hit you in a new way?



What questions came to mind? Is there anything you didn't understand?

Is there a question you want to ask the writer or the Lord?



What is the central idea, or heart, of the passage?

Can you write it in one sentence?



How does the truth and message in the passage point to Jesus?
How does it fuel your worship?



What can be transformed in your thinking, desires and actions from this passage?



With whom could you share what you've learned?
What do you feel led to share and how can you share it?



Pray for the people named in the speech bubble box and for help with your points of application from the arrow box.



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...

Why do you think Jesus is so often misunderstood?

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 18:15-43

1. What does the rich ruler want from Jesus? Why doesn't Jesus answer his question immediately?

2. Why does he go home sad?

3. Read 18:24-27 and 18:15-17. What is the way to eternal life, and what isn't?

4. In 18:31-43 the blind beggar sees Jesus clearly while the twelve disciples do not (v34)? Why do you think that is? As a disciple of Jesus yourself what might you need to learn from that?

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. Have you received Jesus as an infant receives things and are you continuing to do 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 different views you've heard about what Jesus' mission was?

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 LUKE 19:1-10

1. What are all the ways Zaccheus is similar to the rich young ruler of the previous chapter. What are all the ways he is different? (Both in terms of who he is and what he does in the story).

2. What do you notice about the way Jesus treats Zaccheus?

3. Verse 10 explains the heart of Jesus' mission and is a key moment in Luke's gospel. What does it show us about:

- Jesus' purpose...

- Jesus' heart...

- Luke's gospel...

- ourselves...

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. Our core convictions are the fundamental truths which guide and shape our lives.

a) What are some of your core convictions?

b) What would it look like for Luke 19:10 to be a core conviction in your life?

5. Look back over Luke 9:51-19:27. What is a key 'take home' for you from our time Luke's gospel?



SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRINTED OCTOBER 2025