



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS

**TERM 2**  
**2022**



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAM

**TERM 2**  
**2022**

EPTs gather Christian workers across Australia to encourage one another in our **CONVICTION, CHARACTER, COMPETENCE, and COURAGE** so we all can share Jesus with our colleagues and to pray for each other that God may work in their lives to see Jesus known.

**Vision: To reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.**

**Aim: 1000 people across Australia meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible**

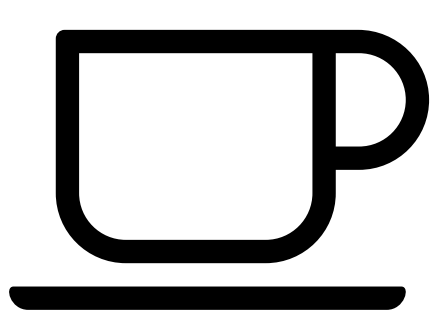


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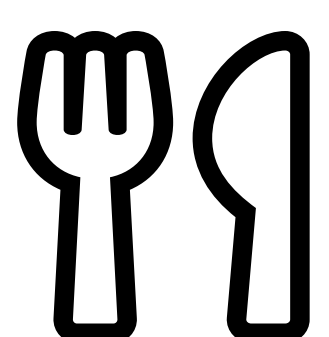
## TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

### COFFEE



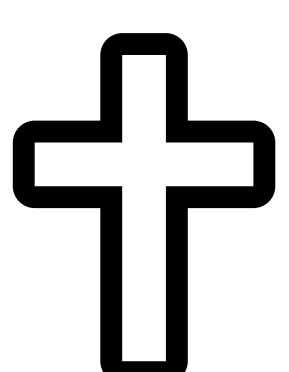
Shared a personal conversation  
Knows I'm Christian  
Spent social time together

### DINNER



I understand their worldview  
I've shared the Bible worldview

### GOSPEL



Made a clear presentation of gospel  
Reading Bible  
Become Christian  
Joined a good church



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## **OVERVIEW**

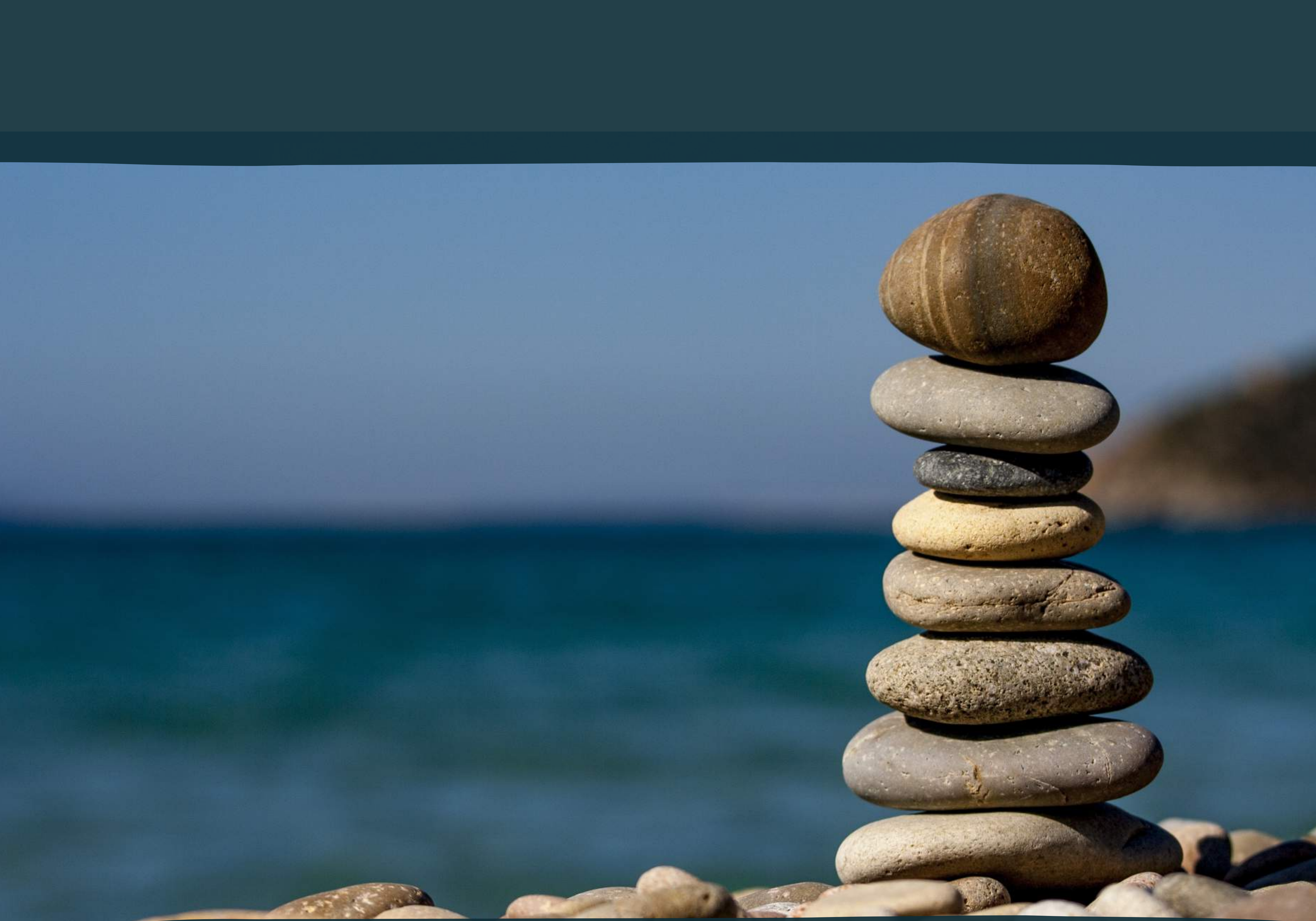
**GOSPEL AT WORK BOOK REVIEW:  
WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

**THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST**

**RELY ON GOD**

**LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE**

**TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR FRIENDS**



# **THE GOSPEL AT WORK: WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

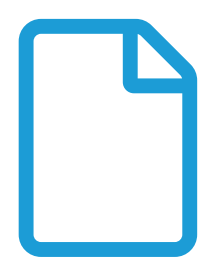


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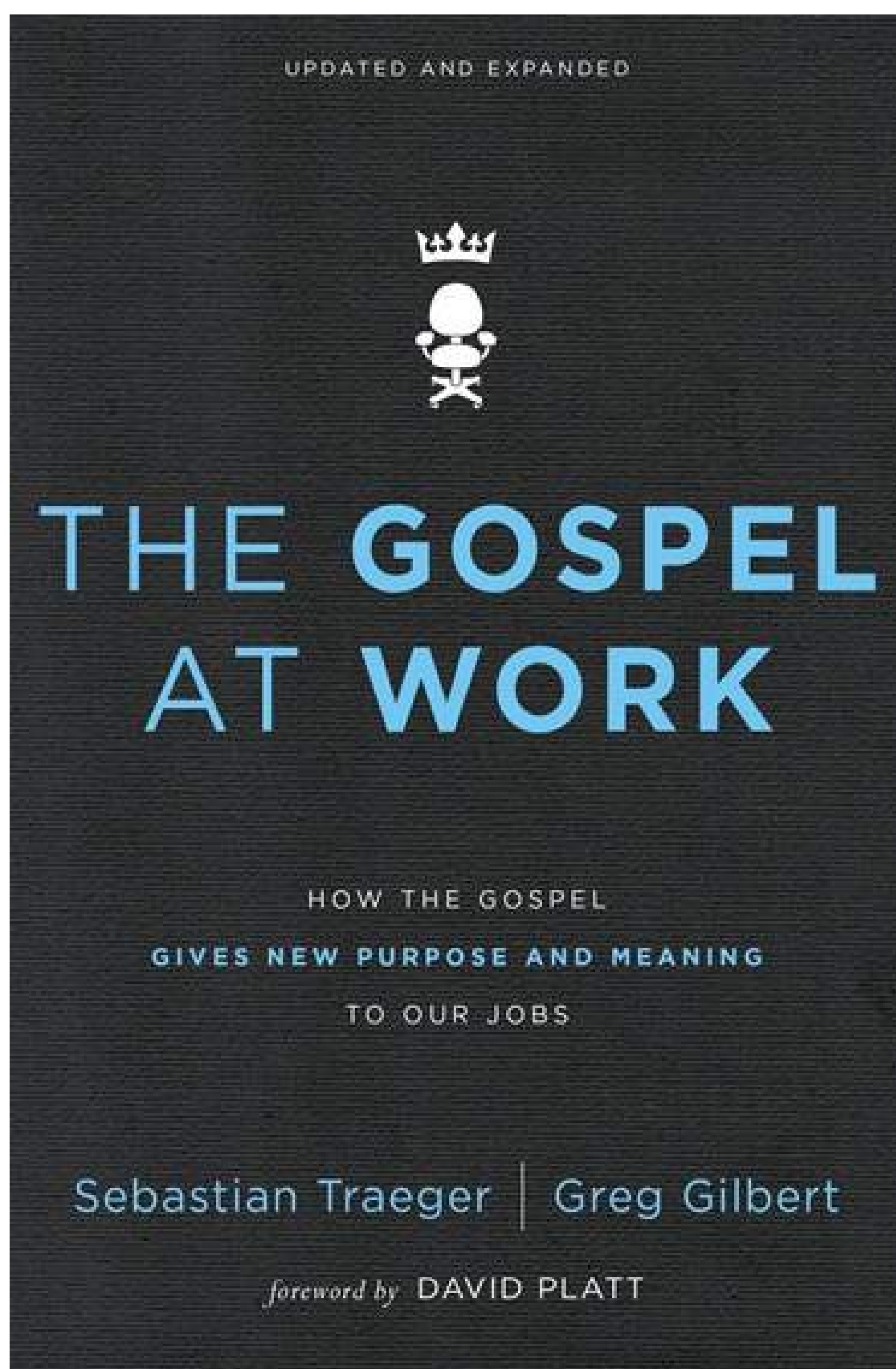


# THE GOSPEL AT WORK

## Book Review



### Review of *The Gospel at Work*



The Gospel at Work by Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert is a helpful examination of how the gospel of Jesus changes our approach to our workplaces. They explore the purpose of work, choosing what job to pursue, determining the work-life balance, adjusting to difficult work situations, leading as a Christian, sacred and secular work and how to share Jesus in our workplaces. Some of the practical examples typify the American culture in which the book was written and must be reimagined in our culture, but the biblical principles are sound and worth meditating upon. Key to the authors' examination is finding the balance between idolatry and idleness - by finding the right mix between faithfulness and fruitfulness. This study explores this concept as a taster for reading the book.

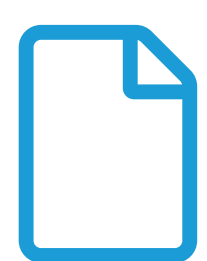
**To order a copy of  
The Gospel at Work  
scan this code -**



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## THE GOSPEL AT WORK: WORK-LIFE BALANCE



### Introduction

1 in 5 Australians quite their jobs in 2021. The Great Resignation is in part about workers taking the opportunity COVID presented to seek a better work-life balance. How else have you seen people try to achieve a work-life balance?



### Big Picture

*Working as a Christian is about finding the sweet-spot between faithfulness and fruitfulness.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – What are the excesses we should avoid as Christians?

*We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:11-13**

*...we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:10-12**



## Bible Passage (cont)

*Do not wear yourself out to get rich;  
do not trust your own cleverness.*

<sup>5</sup>*Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,  
for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*

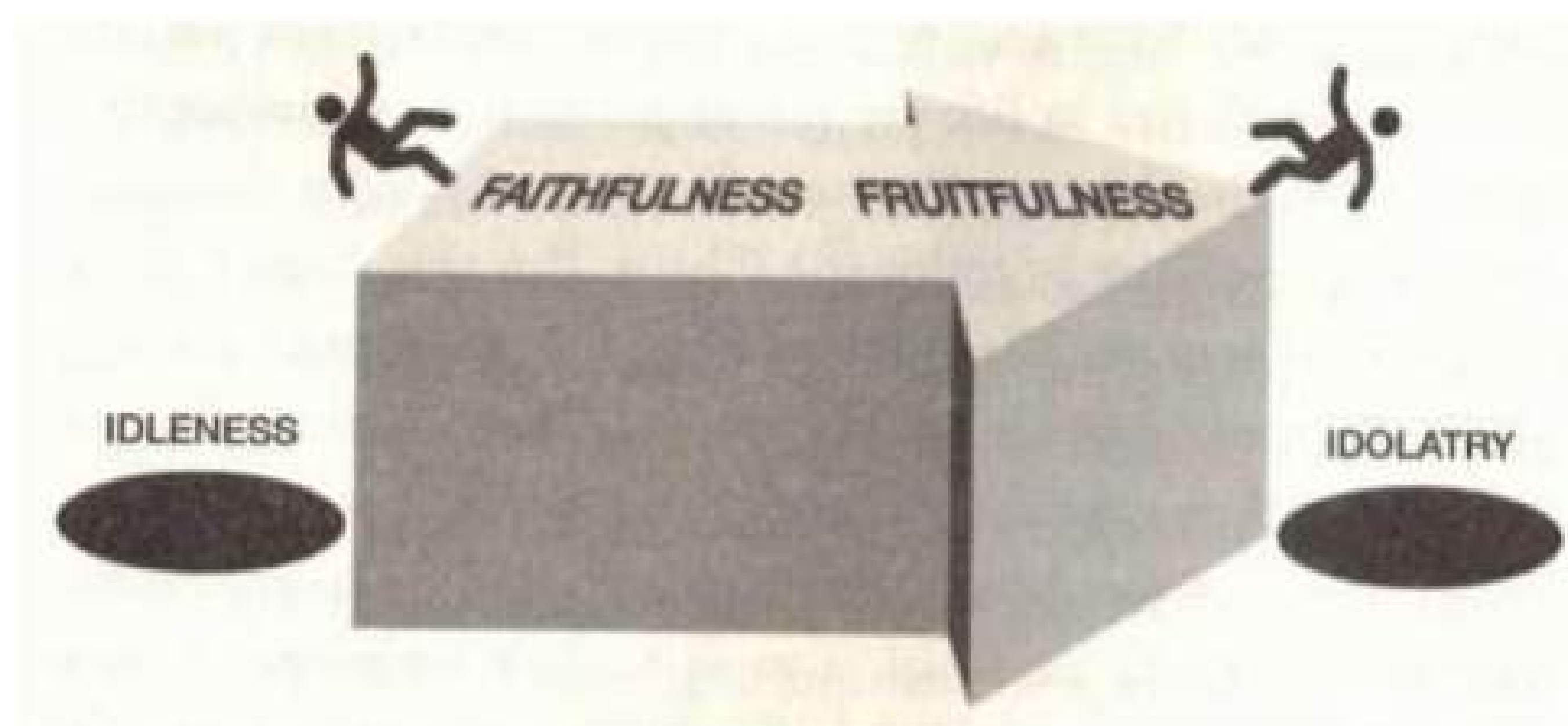
Proverbs 23:4-5



## Key Truths

1. The sinful human heart has two extremes when it comes to work - idleness, and idolatry. We either fail to work in such a way that provides for our responsibilities, or we devote ourselves to work so much that it becomes our god.
2. When we perform our work as we are meant to - as our employer expects - and God requires, we are being faithful.
3. When we start performing above and beyond being faithful, we start to become fruitful. This is the difference between doing all that is required of you, and really performing.
4. When our performance at work starts to encroach on our other areas of responsibility - such as family, or church life - we are in danger of falling into idolatry where work is our master, and not the means by which we serve God and others.

*Thoughts? Questions?*







## **Application**

We all have different capacities and so when it comes to working out our work-life balance as a Christian, there is no one-size fits all answer. What might be faithful for one, will be idleness for another, and what would be fruitfulness for another would be idolatry for someone else. Additionally, we all have different responsibilities - and very few people can be fruitful in more than one sphere of responsibility in their lives, and so being faithful may be all we can achieve. Is there something wrong about being 'only' faithful?

Traeger and Gilbert advise:

1. Work out what it means to be faithful in all of your areas of responsibilities
2. Reflect on yourself against what it means to be faithful (not fruitful)
3. Repent of idolatry and idleness
4. Consider where you might be able to push into fruitfulness

How might working faithfully (or fruitfully) help you to share Jesus at work?

What might it look like to be faithful in your workplace? What would it look like to be fruitful?



## **Prayer**

Pray for discernment. Pray God would make you aware of temptations to be idle and idolatry.

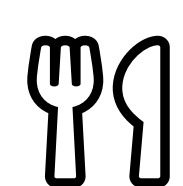
Pray that living faithfully at work would result in a good testimony before your colleagues.

## **Remember**

**COFFEE**

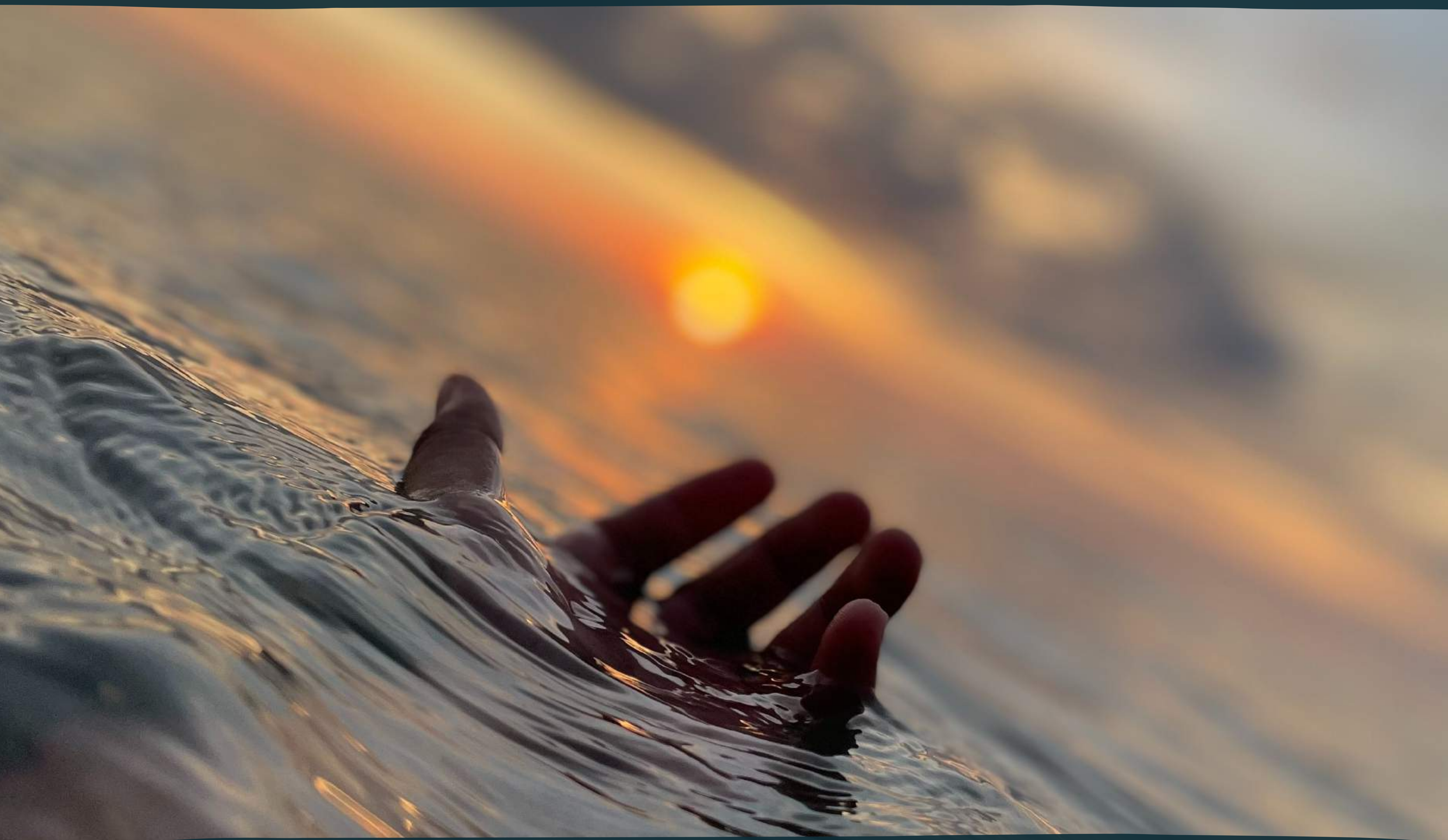


**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**





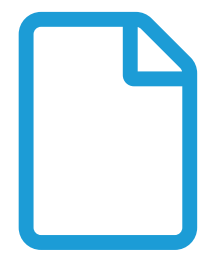
# THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST



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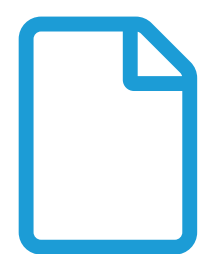
# THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST

## Course Overview



### Course Summary

These studies explore how the biblical notion of rest impacts the way we approach our work and helps us stand out in our workplace.



### Course Structure

**1: BUSINESS AND REST**

**2: GRACE AND REST**

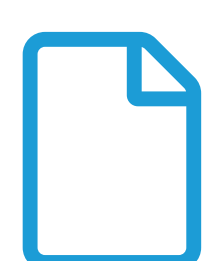
**3: TRUST AND REST**



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# THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST

## 1. BUSYNESS AND REST



### Introduction

Australia is known as the land of the long weekend, and yet our annual leave statistics suggest that we're not great at taking our rest. The average Australian worker has over 20 days accrued – yes! a year's worth of leave. Why do you think that is?



### Big Picture

*Rest doesn't come naturally because deep down we mistakenly think if we work enough we can hold off unemployment, old age, disease, ill health, and – ultimately – death.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – QUESTION?

*"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

*<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

**Matthew 11:27-30**



## Key Truths

1. Rest is not the freedom from all burdens – that’s laziness (it’s own burden). Rest is the replacement of a heavy burden with a light one – that of coming to Jesus.
2. The crushing burden of our own self-salvation in our work is replaced by the light yoke of living Jesus’ way.
3. Water Brueggemann said that “Sabbath (the Jewish day of rest) is a bodily act of testimony to alternative and resistance to pervading values.” That is, taking on Jesus’ rest displays to our world that our slavery is not to work, or ourselves, or our base desires and instincts. Rather our slavery is to Jesus, whose burden is light.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

How might the light and easy burden of Jesus be seen in our lives?

When you go on leave do you find it hard to switch off? (Answering emails? Phone calls?)

If we cannot seem to rest what does that reveal about our trust in Jesus and the rest he brings?

When you first start working it can be easy to slip into bad habits of working back late just because others are doing it. It’s important early on to work out your boundaries. Do you really need to work back, or are you trying to impress?



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## Prayer

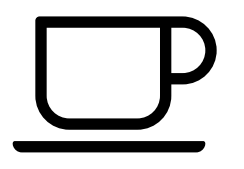
Pray that we would be happy to throw off our self-imposed burdens and take on Jesus' light and easy burden.

Pray that, even amid extreme busyness, our ability to rest would be testament to our obedience to Jesus rather than to the working world.

Pray that this would be evident to those around us.

## Remember

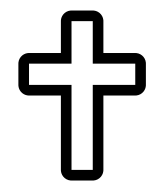
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



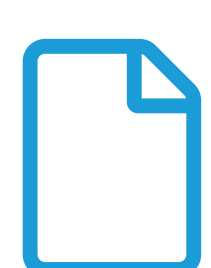
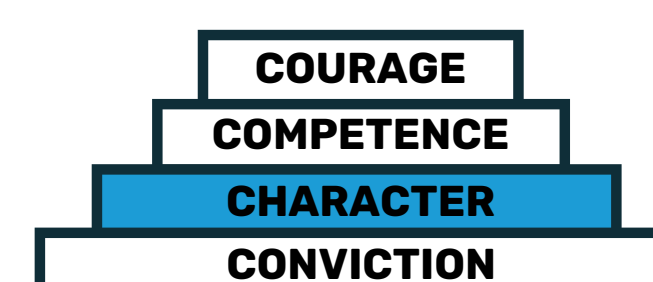
**GOSPEL**



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# THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST

## 2. GRACE AND REST



### Introduction

If financial planning ads are to be believed, our goal in life is to retire with a comfortable lifestyle. But research tells us that retirement is a difficult adjustment. It can often result in depression and even the onset of severe physical ailments. Why do we find rest so hard?



### Big Picture

*God's gift of rest is a 'burden' to be enjoyed – not endured, but this doesn't come naturally. Rest from work is a wonderful gift of God.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – QUESTION?

*One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"*

*<sup>25</sup>He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup>In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."*

*<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

Mark 2:23-28



## Key Truths

1. The Sabbath was a gift of God to his people for their refreshment and recovery; it was made for their benefit. It was set into the natural fabric of life in creation. Rest is a gift to be enjoyed, not a law to enslave people in heartless obedience.
2. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. He rules over the Sabbath. Just as the king of Israel was able to break food laws in the temple, so too Jesus stands over the Sabbath laws.
3. Jesus exercises his rule over the Sabbath by healing and restoring people (See Mark 3:1-6)
4. The sabbath rest is the gift of God. It is part of Jesus' 'burden' that is to be enjoyed, not endured. Rest from work is a gift from God that we should embrace and for which we can give thanks to God.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

The Sabbath shows us that God cares about our rest. How does your life incorporate God's rest?

How might enjoying God's gift of rest help you stand out at work?

If you are someone responsible for others, how can you encourage your team to be well rested for their work?

If you are a recent graduate, when we first start working we can find that the things that used to relax us are no longer effective or you don't have the time to do them in the same way. What have you found helps you rest during the working week, or over the weekend?



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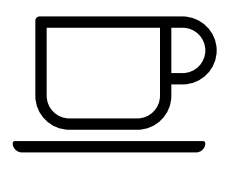


## Prayer

Pray for each other that we will enjoy God's gift of rest and that it would be evident in our lives.

## Remember

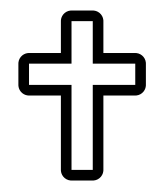
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**

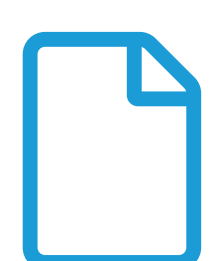
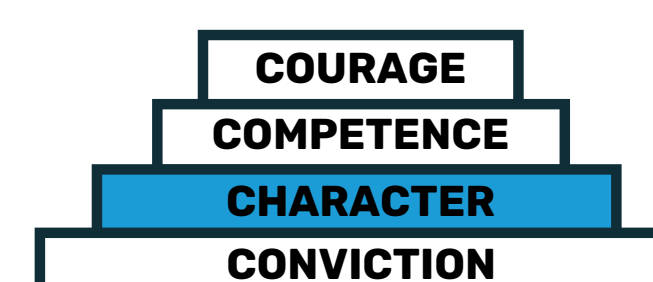


**GOSPEL**



## THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF REST

### 3. TRUST AND REST



#### Introduction

We've all been there – working back late, going in to work on the weekend, or bringing work home to do over the weekend. It's just part of what it means to work in the modern world, right?

Could there be another way?



#### Big Picture

*Rest doesn't come naturally. Enjoying God's rest means trusting in God's good provision and not our own efforts.*



#### Bible Passage

While you read – QUESTION?

*“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

Exodus 20:8-11



## Key Truths

1. Reflect upon the Sabbath in Israel's history. Put yourself in the wilderness with Moses, following the pillar of smoke or fire. No fridges, no processed food or preservatives. Food is what God provides in the manna for that day (or the previous day on the Sabbath). Now jump forward to when Israel is in the promised land. The manna stops and Israel is an agricultural society. You eat what is grown or raised. On the Sabbath you eat what was prepared the day before. God's rest only works if God's people have a deep trust in him.
2. Obeying the Sabbath laws out of obligation makes them a terrible burden. Enjoying God's rest requires an active trust in God; we rest in his providence.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

We often find that we work back late, or on our weekend, or when we get home in the evening because things won't happen unless I do them. We're trusting in our own efforts and not in God to see our work done. Our lack of rest could be an indicator that we're trusting in our own hands – or perhaps in our boss or company – to provide for us. Rather than trusting in God's loving providence. But all good gifts come from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17)

God's rest is enjoying his providence, it's not an inconvenience to all the work we need to do. What difference would our co-workers notice in our lives if we had this kind of attitude as we work?



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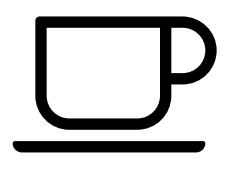
## Prayer

Pray that we would have the courage to take our opportunities to rest and wouldn't be succumb to the pressure to work through our rest.

Pray that co-workers would notice the difference when we enjoy his rest as an exercise of trust.

## Remember

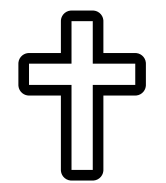
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

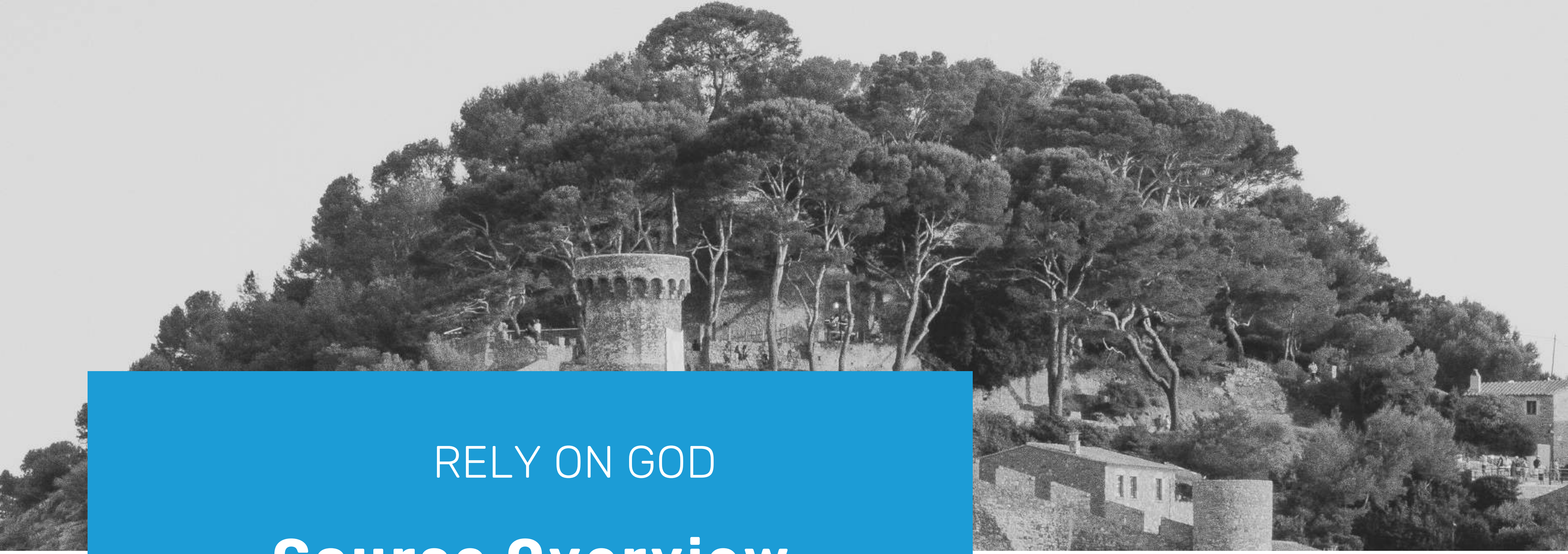




# RELY ON GOD

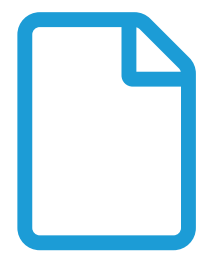


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RELY ON GOD

# Course Overview



## Course Summary

This study examines our relationship with God and our relationship with money and speaks about how City Bible Forum seeks to support its work.

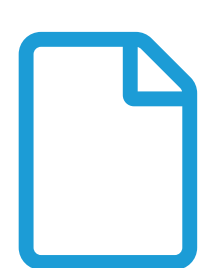


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Photo by JACK REDGATE from Pexels

# RELY ON GOD



## Introduction

'Our attitude towards money is a direct reflection of our trust in God.'

What do you think?



## Big Picture

*God cares for us and provides for our needs. When we trust in him and his provision, we don't need to worry about money.*



## Bible Passage

While you read – why serve a master?

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

*<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at <sup>26</sup> the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any <sup>27</sup> one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

*<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*

*<sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**Matthew 6:24-33**



## Key Truths

1. We all have a master. Often the choice is between money and God. You can't serve both.
2. Worrying doesn't change anything, except how we feel.
3. God cares for birds and flowers, and he provides for them. God cares much more for us, therefore he will provide for our needs too.
4. God cares for us and provides for our needs. If we trust him, we will seek him rather than the things we need.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

When we serve money, it is an expression of trust in ourselves (or others) rather than in God. We can't serve God and money because we need to either trust in God or in money.

In the end, only God is the true provider.

How easy is it to not worry and trust God's provision?

## And so, How is City Bible Forum funded?

City Bible Forum, like most mission organisations, operates by the generosity of God through his people. That's no small thing to acknowledge - God is our provider and we rely on his provision through his people.

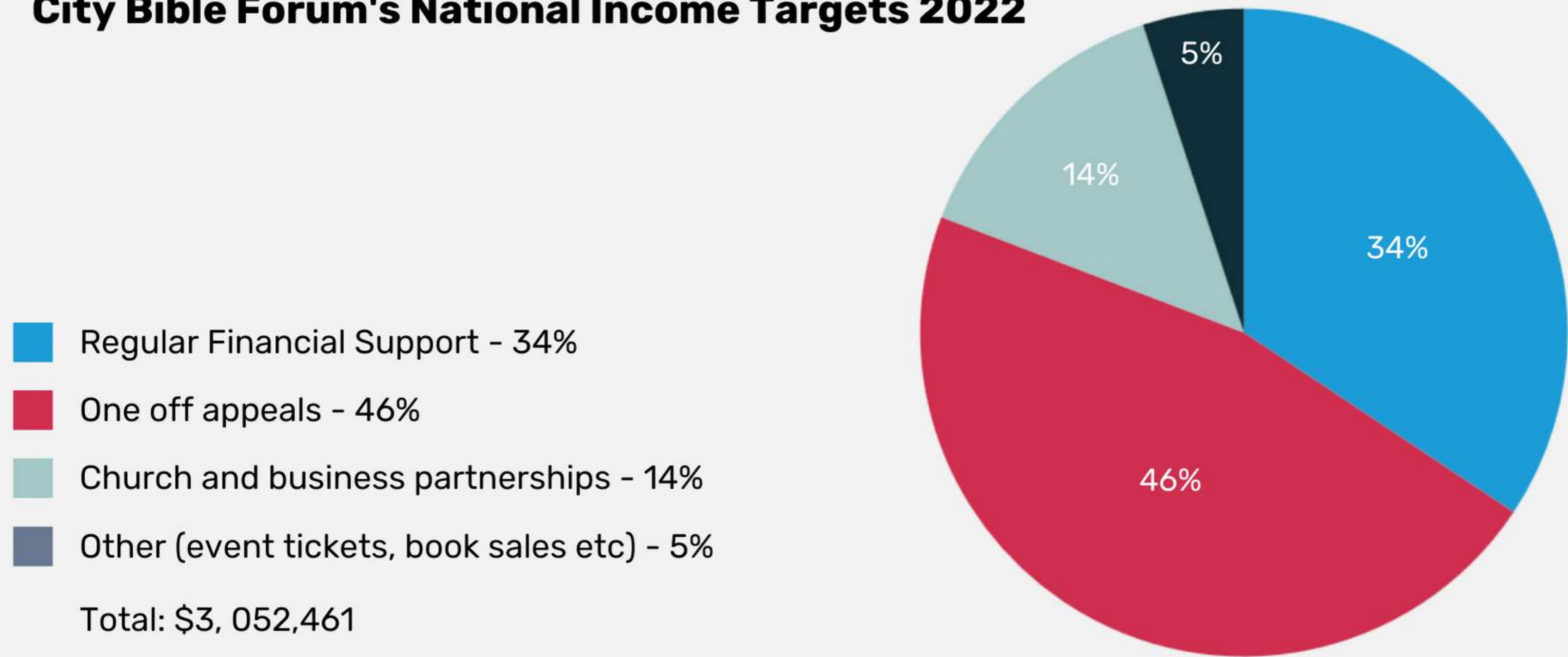
There are four main streams of income for City Bible Forum: regular financial support, one-off appeals (twice a year), partnership with churches, and other miscellaneous sources such as event tickets, resource sales, and speaking fees.

City Bible Forum's goal as an organisation is to raise more of regular supporter partnerships with workers such as us, which will enable us to continue reaching the world through the workplace with the good news of Jesus.

Could you start giving to support the work of City Bible Forum?



**City Bible Forum's National Income Targets 2022**



**Prayer**

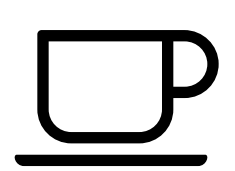
Praise God for his generosity through his people that means City Bible Forum can exist.

Pray for discernment about how to best give from what God has entrusted to you.

Pray for each other's attitude to money, that we would serve God and not money.

**Remember**

**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**





# LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

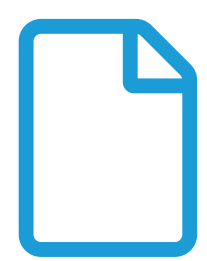


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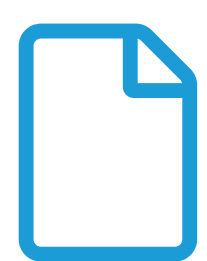
# LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

## Course Overview



### Course Summary

These studies explore Paul's letter to the Ephesians, where Paul explores what it looks like to live as a Christian where everything is coming under the rule of the Lord Jesus.



### Course Structure

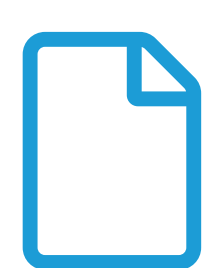
- 1: OUR FUTURE IS WONDERFUL**
- 2: DESIGNED FOR GOOD WORK**
- 3: JESUS' LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING**
- 4: TRUTH AND LOVE**
- 5: DEALING WITH FEAR WHEN SHARING JESUS**



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## LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

# 1. OUR FUTURE IS WONDERFUL



### Introduction

Pandemics, fires, floods, war, mosquitos infecting people with rare Asian diseases – where do our colleagues find hope for the future?



### Big Picture

*Our hope for our glorious future is assured by the same divine power that raised Jesus from the dead and made him the ruler of all things.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – how is our future assured?

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength<sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

*<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

**Ephesians 1:18-23**



## Key Truths

1. Paul prays for Christians to be enlightened to know the riches of our glorious hope and the resurrection power that works in us to that end.
2. God's resurrection power that raised Jesus to life, also raises us with him – as his body, the church – to this glorious inheritance, where Christ rules over all.
3. There is no authority, power or dominion that can stand before the risen Jesus. In Jesus we have a new life to live now, and an amazing future.
4. If the resurrection hope that raised Jesus to life works in us so that we too share in his glorious future – our hope is secure, and more wonderful than any darkness that comes against us.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C.S. Lewis in *Weight of Glory*

Our hope is too small! Our colleagues future hopes revolve around a nice house, a successful career, successful children, a healthy nest-egg – and if we're honest with ourselves. These hopes often capture our attention too. But compare them to the riches promised in Jesus and they're – well – ordinary. And if our certain glorious hope hasn't captured our dreams, how are our colleagues going to be interested in our future with God?

What is one thing you can do this week to remind yourself of our glorious hope in Jesus?



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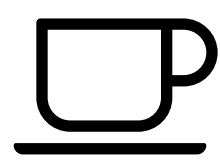
## Prayer

Pray for opportunities to speak of our glorious, certain hope – even in the light of a world of gloom and disappointment.

Pray that your friends and colleagues would want to know the reason for your hope.

## Remember

**COFFEE**



**DINNER**

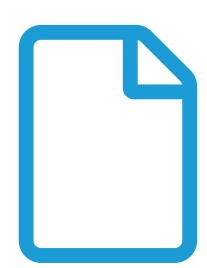


**GOSPEL**



## LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

# 2. DESIGNED FOR GOOD WORK



### Introduction

That feeling when you've finished a job well... there's nothing like it!  
Share about a time when you did an amazing job. How did it feel?  
What makes work good?



### Big Picture

*We are a new creation of God, made to do the good works God has prepared for us in advance.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – what is our purpose in Christ?

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Ephesians 2:8-10



## Key Truths

1. Those who trust in Jesus are a new creation – raised from death to life by God in Christ.
2. They are a new creature with a purpose – to do those good works God has prepared for us in advance.
3. Christians are saved by grace, so we can't boast in our good works. Our good works are not ours – they are prepared for us beforehand,
4. We normally read "good works" as moral performance, but what if our good works also includes our paid work?

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

As we consider our workplace, what could those good works God has already prepared for you include?

Remembering God's big picture for history (have a look at Ephesians 1:9-10) is to bring everything together under Jesus as Lord. Sharing Jesus with people who don't yet trust in him is certainly part of the good works God has in mind for us. Who might be the people God has prepared for you to witness to?

What might be the next step with them meeting Jesus?



## Prayer

Pray for eyes to see the people and opportunities God has prepared for you as part of his good work in your workplace.

Pray for people and situations where it is hard to do the good works God has prepared for you.

## Remember

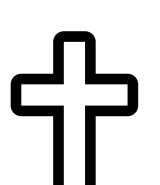
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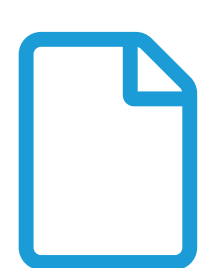


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## LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

# 3. LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING



### Introduction

Love describes our most intimate relationships, and it can also describe how we feel about crunchy peanut butter. What do people usually mean by the word love? How about the love of God?



### Big Picture

*The immensity of Jesus' love means it is just too big for us to understand, and yet grasping a true knowledge of Jesus' love is key to living the Christian life.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – what does it mean to truly understand God's love?

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:16-21*



## Key Truths

1. How do you describe the indescribable love of God? Look at Paul's language, "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep", "to know this love that surpasses knowledge". The love of Christ grips Paul powerfully.
2. The only hope we might have to ever understand Jesus' love is by the power of God (who can do immeasurably more than we imagine) as Christ dwells in our hearts by faith.
3. Understanding Christ's love is so we 'may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' (v19) The fullness of God is best seen in Jesus. So, the purpose of understanding the love of Christ is that we love others sacrificially – like Jesus.
4. God is to have the glory throughout all generations, this means God's love must be made known to the *next* generation.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

"Until you truly understand the love of Christ, you will never seek to share Jesus. Once you truly understand the love of Christ, you will never stop!"

What do you think?

Paul's prayer reveals the vital need we all have to understand the love of Christ for us.

How are you going in understanding Christ's love?

Once we understand the love of Christ, we can love as Jesus does. What would that kind of love look like in your workplace?



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## Prayer

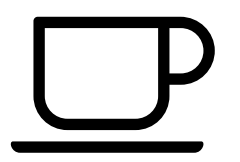
“If we’re to share Christ, we need first to love Christ! We need to ask the Spirit to go to work in our hearts with the gospel, so that we’ll love Christ more and more, and he’ll displace our idols; and so when we talk about what we love, we’ll be talking about him.” Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*

Let’s ask God to work in our hearts to understand the love of God for us in Christ in all its fullness.

Ask that God would so capture our hearts, that we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)

## Remember

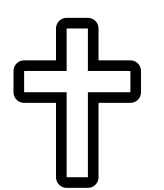
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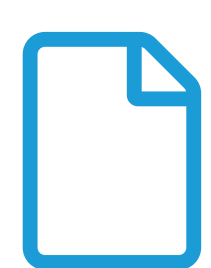


**GOSPEL**



# LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

## 4. TRUTH AND LOVE



### Introduction

Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy. (Warren Wiersbe)  
Our culture likes to say “speak your truth” or “live your truth”, but is also quick to cancel when offense is caused. Does our culture have a truth problem or a love problem?



### Big Picture

*God calls upon us to speak the truth in love as the only way to see true spiritual growth in ourselves, the church, and in others.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – how do we grow in Christian maturity?

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Ephesians 4:15-16



## Key Truths

1. As God's people speak the truth in love, the church builds itself up as each part does its work.
2. Building the kingdom of God is a speaking activity. Love requires us to speak up!
3. Some people are given to the church as evangelists (4:11), but all of us need to speak the truth in love, just as while some people have the gift of generosity (Romans 12:8) doesn't prevent us all from being generous.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Are there times you've spoken the truth without love?

What stops you or limits you from speaking the truth in love in your workplace?

If we are called to speak the truth in love, can not speaking be an act of hatred?

Consider these words from atheist magician, Penn Jillette:

"How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"

What do you think?



## Prayer

Pray that we would be known as people who love and speak honestly and truthfully.

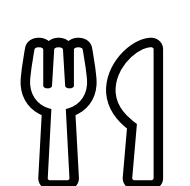
Pray that we would seek to love people enough to speak – even if it may risk rejection and anger.

## Remember

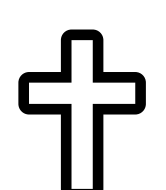
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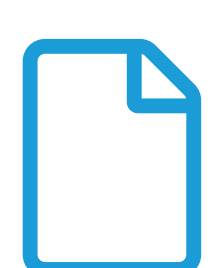
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## LIFE UNDER JESUS' RULE

# 5. DEALING WITH FEAR WHEN SHARING JESUS



### Introduction

Many people have a recurring nightmare of turning up at school only to find they have an exam they haven't studied for, or they're wearing their pyjamas (or less). Many of us have a deep fear of being unprepared when an opportunity arises to talk about Jesus. Share of a time when words have failed you, or you were too fearful to speak about Jesus? How did it feel?



### Big Picture

*We all can experience fear when sharing Jesus, but there is a way forward – pray for each other that God would give us the words to fearlessly share Jesus.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – what is Paul's request to Ephesian believers?

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Ephesians 6:18-20



## Key Truths

1. The apostle Paul experienced fear when it came to sharing Jesus. (You know, that Paul, who saw the good news of Jesus spread throughout the known world, who wrote a huge chunk of the New Testament)
2. Paul asks for prayer for his evangelism – for the right words and for fearlessness (twice) in sharing Jesus.
3. Paul was especially chosen by God as his ambassador to the Gentiles, but we too act as God's ambassadors as we interact with people far from God.
4. If Paul asked for prayer, how much more do we need prayer!

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

What a comfort that the apostle Paul – who always seemed so bold when it came to Jesus – experienced fear – and didn't feel he always had the right words – the one who wrote all those books of the New Testament.

What a blessing that we can meet together and pray for one another that we would be given words to speak without fear of the great news of Jesus with our friends and colleagues.



## Prayer

Pray for one another that we would each fearlessly make known the great news of Jesus with our friends and colleagues.

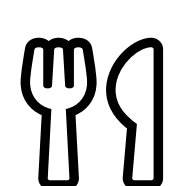
Pray for one another that we would trust God to give us the right words to speak in those moments.

## Remember

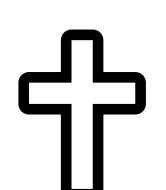
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# TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR FRIENDS

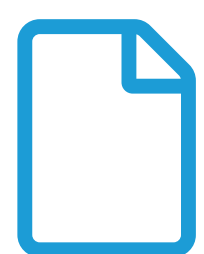


EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS





TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR FRIENDS  
**Course Overview**



**Course Summary**

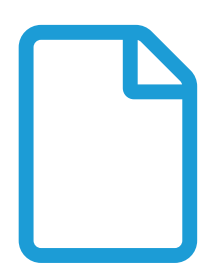
This study examines how our trust in the sovereign God of the universe means we can approach evangelism without anxiety - trusting God with our friends.



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## TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR FRIENDS



### Introduction

The word 'evangelism' can stir some strong emotions in us. What feelings come for you?



### Big Picture

*Entering the kingdom of God is entirely up to God. We can trust our friends into God's merciful hands.*



### Bible Passage

While you read – Question?

*Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."*

<sup>4</sup> *"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"*

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

**John 3:3-8**



## Key Truths

1. The Spirit blows wherever it pleases and so too does rebirth happen according to God's will.
2. Spiritual renewal is essential if we are to enter the kingdom of God. Rebirth, just like birth, is something that happens to us – we can't make it happen. We certainly can't make it happen for others.
3. If we are to see our friends and colleagues enter the kingdom of God, they need to be reborn. We can't make that happen. But God can! (and isn't it a relief that it's not up to us?)

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Often we feel anxious, or guilty or depressed about evangelism because we've started to believe that it's in some way all up to us. But it is clearly God's work! We can't force God to save our friends, but we know he wants to – he sent Jesus after all! So, we can pray for our friends. We can trust God is active as we are faithful. And we can invite people to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible. Knowing that God is working by his Spirit.

What happens if my friend moves away? Or they reject me? Or I don't seem to make any headway?

If their salvation was dependent on you, then all these would be tragedies! What difference does knowing God is in control make to how you approach evangelism?

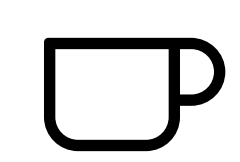


## Prayer

Pray that we would learn to trust God with our friends' and colleagues' salvation.

## Remember

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