

WELCOME

BREAKTHROUGH

GROW TEAM

WELCOME

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to God's family. The decision you have made to surrender your life to God and receive His forgiveness is the most important decision you will ever make.

ANYTHING BUT BORING

When I was a teenager a friend had a poster that read "Finding God is not the end of the journey, it is the beginning". Over the years I have often reflected on the truth of that statement. It is so true that finding God is not the end of your search it is actually the start of a wonderful new life. A life "with God". When you read all about the life of Jesus in the bible you will discover that following Him is anything but boring!

CHANGES

Following Jesus will mean change in your life. Jesus said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead"¹. Some of the things you did in the past you will no longer be able to do. But following Jesus is much more than not doing wrong things. It is all about doing right things. The emphasis is on "following Jesus" and that is an exciting, fulfilling life.

Also, it is true that following Jesus is no bed of roses. In fact following Jesus may *increase* the problems in your life as you begin to "go against the flow of the rest of the world". But you now face these problems together with the living God who strengthens and guides you. As you learn to obey His word the storms of life will no longer leave you bruised and battered - but standing tall. Problems caused by your own insecurities, anger, pride, fears etc. will be done away with as God transforms you with faith, humility and love. In the past where you were powerless to change circumstances, now you can turn to God in prayer and see situations supernaturally altered. You will experience God's goodness and favour on your life.

¹ Matthew 16:24 (The Message Bible)

A BRILLIANT CHOICE

The fact that you are reading this also means that you are serious about growing in your new walk with God and have committed to participating in a Grow Team - Brilliant! That is an excellent choice and I know it will really benefit you.

Each day you will be working your way through this study (it is divided into daily sections) and at the end of the week you will meet with the other members of your Grow Team to discuss what you have all been learning and to encourage each other. This introductory study, "WELCOME" runs for three weeks. Your Grow Team Leader will give you details of other Grow Team groups which I encourage you to join when you have completed this one. They will build upon the foundations established in this study.

I'm excited for the journey you have undertaken and I really encourage you to spend quality time each day working through the daily portions of this study. They will definitely help you to grow.

And once again, WELCOME!

WHAT ARE THOSE FUNNY CODE THINGS?

In these notes you will see many references such as "Matt 4:23" or "2Tim. 3:16." Whenever we refer to something that is written in the Bible, we use this reference system to show us the exact location of that quote. Let me take a moment to explain how they work - they are really quite simple.

The bible is actually a collection of writings, each of which is called a "book". There are 66 books in the bible. Some are as short as only one page - others as long as 100 pages. The books are divided into two groups: The Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament has 39 books and covers from the creation of the world up until the time before Jesus was born. The life of Jesus and the beginnings of the church are covered in the 27 books of the New Testament.

Each of the books in the bible has a name. For example, there is a book written by one of Jesus' disciples called Matthew which contains the story of Jesus' life on earth. When you hear a preacher say, "Let's turn to the book of Matthew," he is telling us to turn in our bibles to the part written by Matthew (which by the way is the 40th book in the bible, the first book in the New Testament). Sometimes the book name is abbreviated (eg. Matt. or Mt.).

To help in referring to a particular portion of a book, each book was divided into chapters (eg. Matthew is divided into 28 chapters) and the chapters were then divided into verses (eg. Matthew chapter 4 is divided into 25 verses).

When you want to look up a reference such as John 3:16 (or it may be abbreviated to Jn 3:16) You need to find the book of John, then turn to the third chapter and then finally the 16th verse in that chapter.

ie. John 3:16 = John 3 : 16

Book Chapter Verse

To find the book of John, turn to the beginning of your bible where you will find an index with all of the books of the bible and their page numbers. You may want to put a book mark in this index as you will find it really helpful. Don't be intimidated by how quickly others are able to turn to a reference in the bible, we all started just like you relying on the index to find anything. Eventually you will learn the order of the books by memory but for now just use the index. And when you are using your phone or tablet to look up references in the bible, you can jump straight to the passage which makes it easier.

Look up John 3:16 and write down the verse:



John 3:16

If you don't yet own a bible, please talk to the person who is coordinating your Grow Team and they will give you a bible or if you want to purchase a bible they could go with you to a Christian Bookstore. Because the original bible was written in ancient Hebrew and Greek every bible is actually a translation into English. There are dozens of translations available today. I suggest that you get a version such as the New Living Bible as it is quite easy to read - especially if reading the bible is new for you.

• **Week One** •

The Good News





BIBLE READING

GENESIS CHAPTER 1

Let me share the "Good News" with you. When Jesus was on earth the bible says that he went about teaching and preaching. Write out Matthew 4:23 and take note of what it was that Jesus was preaching.



Matt 4:23

The bible says that Jesus was proclaiming "the gospel of the kingdom." The word *gospel* means *good news*. When Jesus was on the earth he told people the good news. Not just any good news. THE good news about the Kingdom of God.

I want to share with you the *good news* of how Jesus came to rescue us from our sins and restore us back to fellowship with God. The bible has a much teach us about this. I have sought to summarise the bible's teaching, so what you have below is *the gospel in a nut shell!*

God Created Us

In the first book of the bible, Genesis, we read how God created this whole world. He filled it with plants and animals. On the final day of his creative work He created Adam, the first human.

Write out these verses:



Gen 1:1



Gen 1:26



TO CHEW ON

Each week you will be given a key verse from the bible to meditate on. What do I mean by "meditate on". Meditate means to think about and ponder over. It involves talking about it, chewing over it until the truth of that verse gets into your heart. It includes letting what you are meditating on become part of your attitudes, your priorities, your decision making and resulting in changing the way you do things.

So at the start of each week you will be given a verse, and then each day you will be given an opportunity to meditate on that verse.

Your verse for this week is the one I had you look up earlier when you were learning how to use bible references. Write this verse out again:



John 3:16



TO LISTEN TO

WELCOME

Every day we will also give you a short message to listen to encourage you in your new walk with Jesus. These messages are available at our website: www.breakthrough.org.au/welcome

Your message for today is entitled "Welcome".



BIBLE READING

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

God Created Us For Fellowship

When God created Adam, He saw that Adam needed companionship, so he formed Eve, the first woman, out of Adam's rib.

Adam was different from the rest of creation, for God did something unique when He created him. He "breathed into" him. In other words, He not only gave Adam physical life, He gave him spiritual life. So not only could Adam and Eve enjoy each other's company - they could fellowship with God.

Write out Genesis 2:7



Gen 2:7

In fact, the bible says in Gen. 3:8 that God came to Adam in the garden in the cool of the day. I believe this was a common occurrence. Each evening God would come into the garden and fellowship with Adam and Eve.

Write out Genesis 3:8



Gen 3:8

God desires to fellowship with you. He wants to have a close relationship with you.

Write out 1Corinthians 1:9



1Cor 1:9

Read that verse from the Living Bible:

God will surely do this for you, for He always does just what He says, and He is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



TO CHEW ON

Take time to read out loud John 3:16. Read it out three to four times slowly. Thinking about each word as you say it.



TO LISTEN TO

NOT JUST FORGIVEN - FRUITFUL

Your message for today is entitled "Not Just Forgiveness - Fruitful"



BIBLE READING

GENESIS CHAPTER 3

Paradise Lost

God desires to fellowship with you. He wants to have a close relationship with you. But something happened in the garden which resulted in the spiritual part of Adam dying. His fellowship with God was no longer the same. Sin had entered in.

God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden named Eden. They were free to eat freely from every tree in the garden except for one - the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told them that if they ate from the forbidden tree then they would surely die.

Write out Genesis 2:16-17



Gen 2:16-17

This universe was not God's only act of creation. Though we are given few details, we do know that God also created angels who served Him. One of those angels, Lucifer, was one of the chief angels in heaven. He was incredibly beautiful. Pride entered his heart and he sought to usurp God. He was cast down from his position along with his angel followers. Eventually they will be cast into a Lake of Fire which has been prepared for them. In the meantime they seek to frustrate the purposes of God as they still work in complete rebellion towards God. Lucifer is also known as Satan, or the devil. His angel followers are called demons.

Lucifer, in the form of a serpent, appeared to Eve in the garden and told her that God was lying to her. He said that instead of dying, eating the forbidden

fruit would actually make her like God. Believing the devil's lie that God was actually holding out on them - they ignored God's warnings and decided that when it came to deciding what was good or bad that they would make those decisions for themselves. So Eve and then Adam ate the forbidden fruit.

Write out Genesis 3:6



Gen 3:6

Immediately, there was a change. Sin (rebellion against God) had entered into the human race. Adam and Eve (and their descendants) had died spiritually. The world would never be the same.

As a result of Adam and Eve's original sin, every person born since has been born *in sin*. That's right, all of us have been born in sin. We have a nature which seeks to look out for ourselves and has a leaning towards sin. But we can't point the finger at Adam and blame him for all our problems because not only are we born in sin (as a result of Adam) but we ARE sinners (due to our own actions). There is not a person alive who can say that they have totally obeyed God 100% in all their actions and attitudes.

Write out Psalm 51:5



Psalm
51:5

As it says in that verse from the New Living Translation: For I was born a sinner--yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Therefore, we are all headed for hell. Remember I said earlier that there was a place prepared for the devil and all his angels, the Lake of Fire. Well, because of our own rebellion and sin, God will cast us into the Lake of Fire as well. This is not what God wants. We have chosen to rebel against God and therefore we

have chosen (even if many are not aware of it) to follow the devil's path - which ends in hell.

As a result of Adam and Eve's sin God sent them out of the garden and blocked their re-entry. From then on Adam had to work hard as he cultivated the land.

FURTHER READING:

If you would like, you could look up these bible references which all talk about the things discussed in today's study. Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10-15.



TO CHEW ON

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life".

Think about the phrase "For God so loved the world." Take a few minutes to think about the fact that God intensely loves the world. That God intensely loves you!



TO LISTEN TO

WATCH OUT FOR A HARD HEART

Your message for today is entitled "Watch Out for a Hard Heart"



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Paradise Re-gained

Before Adam and Eve were sent out God told them that there would come a day when one of the woman's descendants (her *seed*) would crush the head of Lucifer. God had a plan so that our fellowship with Him could be restored.

How can a perfect, holy and loving God restore mankind? His holiness will not allow our sin to be simply swept under the carpet. God's justice will not allow Him to say "You are forgiven" and pretend that the rebellion never occurred, yet His love will not allow Him to reject His creation.

The bible tells us that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.

Write out Hebrews 9:22



Heb 9:22

Therefore, in order for God to restore us, someone would need to give their life as a sacrifice. But who? Would the shedding of my blood be sufficient to cover my own sins, much less the sins of everyone else? What was required was a perfect, sinless man who would give his own life so that others could be cleansed. But where could such a man be found? God's answer: He sent His own Son. Jesus was not conceived by the normal union of a man and woman, instead the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the virgin Mary's womb - Jesus did not inherit sin from Adam! Secondly, Jesus lived a perfect life - He had no sin of His own!

Write out Hebrews 4:15



Heb 4:15

Why would God send His own Son to die for us? Why would the all powerful God allow His own Son to be mocked, spat upon, beat up and eventually crucified by mankind? Why would He be willing for His Son to humble Himself and become a man, and then die as a shamed convict (crucifixion was for criminals)? Why would He allow His beloved Son to be killed by those who had rebelled against Himself. Why? Because of His great love for us.

These verses summarise it perfectly. Read them carefully and allow the truth of what God did to impact you.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - *But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favour that you have been saved!)*

2Corinthians 5:21 - *He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Romans 5:8-11 - *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God--all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.*



TO CHEW ON

John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life*".

Think about the phrase "that He gave His only Son." What was the result of

God's love for the world? Meditate on this.



TO LISTEN TO

WHEN THE HEAT COMES

Your message for today is entitled "When the Heat Comes"



BIBLE READING

LUKE CHAPTER 24

The Grave Could Not Hold Him

How could we be sure that God's plan was successful? Was Jesus able to take our sins upon Himself? Was He able to deal with the sin nature given to us by Adam?

The power of Sin and Death was conquered by Jesus. The proof - Jesus rose from the dead. Death and Hell could not keep Him. Jesus rose from the dead - never to die again. He was taken up to heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

Read this bible passage from 1Corinthians:

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Write out the last line.



1Cor
15:57

How we

Fifty years after Jesus' death and resurrection He appeared to the apostle John and said this:



Rev 1:17-
18



TO CHEW ON

John 3:16 says,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life".

Think about the phrase "*so that everyone who believes in Him.*" What does it mean to believe in God? Think about the difference between people who "just believe there is a god" and those who actually "trust in, rely on and put their faith in the God who is our creator." Meditate on this.



TO LISTEN TO

NO CHOKING

Your message for today is entitled "No Choking"



BIBLE READING

LUKE CHAPTER 24

What is Our Response?

Jesus died for everyone's sin - does that mean that everyone is now restored in their fellowship with God? Are all men now headed to heaven? Are all now rescued from sin and are no longer destined for hell? No. Not all will go to heaven. Not because Jesus sacrifice was not sufficient. Not because God doesn't desire all to be saved. Paul said in his first letter to Titus that "God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"²

Then why will not all be saved? Because in order to be saved we must do three things:

1. BELIEVE IT

You must believe in what God has done. You must believe that you are a sinner and that Jesus has paid the price for your sin.



John 3:16

2. CHOOSE JESUS

You must make the definite decision that you are going to trust in Jesus and rely upon Him and Him alone. You are choosing Jesus as both your Saviour and your Lord. There is no other way to be saved.

² 1Tit 2:4



John 14:6

3. ACT UPON IT

You cannot have faith hidden in your heart. Faith must be expressed in your actions. One of the key areas of expression of faith is in your conversation. You must speak out the faith in your heart.



Romans
10:9-10

Write out the three steps here:

1.

2.

3.



TO CHEW ON

John 3:16 says,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life".

Think about the phrase "*will not perish but have eternal life.*" Think about the amazing benefits of believing in God. Think about the certainty of this statement (ie. not "might not perish" but "will not perish").

Say the verse out loud. Close your eyes and see if you can say the verse without looking at it.



TO LISTEN TO

30-60-100 FOLD

Your message for today is entitled "30-60-100 Fold".



GROW TEAM WEEKLY MEETING

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

Develop as a group a "prayer of salvation" which incorporates all of the things learned this week.

Discuss everyone's personal response - has everyone prayed the prayer of salvation.

People in the group could share their testimonies of when they were saved.

Discuss the 6 daily messages they listened to.



TO LISTEN TO

WELCOME

Today's message is different to the ones you have been listening to. On the last day of each week I will recommend a full length sermon (this one goes for over an hour) by a different preacher. This message is Part One of a series called, "How to Develop a Strong Spirit" by Pastor George Pearsons from Eagle Mountain International Church (www.emic.org). You can download it at the same place on our website (www.breakthrough.org.au/welcome) that the other daily messages are located.

• **Week TWO** •

What to do right now





BIBLE READING

1CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

So, the big question is, "What now?" This week we will look at six very important things that you will want to do straight away.

1. Connect with the Church

Praise God, that you are not alone in your life as a Christian. When you were saved God made you a part of His family. God is our Heavenly Father and His family is called the church.



John 1:12

The church is a place where you grow. When we meet together we are to encourage and support one another in our life of following Jesus.



Heb
10:24-25

In the bible the church is spoken of as a "body"³. Each of the individual members of a church combine to be the church. Every member has a role to play. Some are hands, some feet, others the eye or mouth. What is your gift?

³ 1Cor 12

Are you called to be a bible teacher (mouth), a server (hands), a person who shares the Good News with others (feet), a worker of compassion (heart), or one of the many gifts in the body?⁴ You need to belong to a church so that you can function in your gifting as well as be balanced by the giftings of the other members.



Rom
12:4-5

God has placed leaders in the church and it is their role to help you to mature in your Christian walk. They are called "pastors" (which means "shepherds") because they care for and protect the church just like a shepherd watches over a flock of sheep. Through preaching the bible, praying for you, and lovingly giving you guidance and correction, they help you to become a mature and strong Christian.

Remember, scattered coals don't burn as brightly - some even die. Belonging to a local church allows you to burn brightly for Jesus!



TO CHEW ON

Your verse to meditate on this week is John 14:6 Write this verse out:



John 14:6

⁴ Rom. 12:6-8



TO LISTEN TO

BECOMING A HUMAN CATTLE PROD

Your message for today is entitled "Becoming a Human Cattle Prod".



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW CHAPTER 6

2. Pray

Prayer is talking with God. God has saved us so we can fellowship with Him, and we do that by praying.



Matt 6:9

It is far more than repeating written prayers, or coming to God with a list of things that we want Him to do for us. Some of the different things that prayer involves are:

- **Worship** - Singing, giving thanks and praising God.
- **Fellowship** - Talking to and listening to God.
- **Requests** - Asking for particular personal needs to be met.
- **Intercession** - Calling on God to work in the lives of others.
- **Repentance** - Asking forgiveness for things we have done and receiving God's help to change.



Eph 6:18

You can talk to God as you go about your daily business - you DON'T have to be in a church on your knees before you can pray! Besides talking to God during your day it is also good for you to set aside a set time during your day to spend in prayer. Why don't you try and spend 15 minutes praying and reading your bible first thing in the morning - it will be a great start to your whole day.



TO CHEW ON

Take time to read out loud John 14:6.

JOHN 14:6 Jesus told him, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

Read it out three to four times slowly. Thinking about each word as you say it.



TO LISTEN TO

LET'S PRAY

Your message for today is entitled "Let's Pray".



BIBLE READING

PROVERBS 3:1-12

3. Read Your Bible

The Bible (also called *Scripture* or *God's Word*) is the book God has given to help and equip us in life. When the Apostle Paul wrote to one of the early church leaders he said:



2Tim
3:16-17

Just as the food that you eat helps your body to grow and stay healthy, the bible is *food* for your soul – your inner man. Peter said that we should hunger for the bible in the same way that a baby longs for its milk.



1Peter 2:2

Besides reading your bible, there are many books, CDs, DVDs and podcasts etc. that will assist you to understand and apply the teaching of the bible. Whilst they will never replace your own personal reading of the bible, they are an excellent help in growing stronger.

Whenever you begin to read the bible, it is good to ask God to give you understanding and to help you apply what you read.

And just like prayer it is wise to set aside time to read the bible. You may want to set a goal of reading a minimum of 1 or 2 chapters every day. Where do you start? Well because the bible is actually a collection of smaller books it is not necessary that you start with the first book in the bible (Genesis) and read through like you would a normal book. I suggest you begin with the following books in the bible:

- **Mark** - A fast-moving account of Jesus' ministry.
- **Acts** - What happened to the disciples after Jesus rose from the dead? This book tells us about the "actions" (hence the name "Acts") of some of the leaders during the first 30 years of the church.
- **Romans** - A letter by the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Rome. This letter gives great understanding into our salvation.
- **Ephesians** - Another letter by Paul, this time to the Christians at Ephesus in which he shares the wonderful plans God has for the church.
- **James** - A hard-hitting, very practical letter by Jesus' brother James.
- **Genesis** - The book of beginnings.



TO CHEW ON

JOHN 14:6 Jesus told him, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

Think about the phrase "I am the way." Take a few minutes to think about the fact that Jesus is the way for the world to know God the Father. Think about the fact that Jesus is a "way" or a "path" or a "door."



TO LISTEN TO

LOVE THAT BOOK

Your message for today is entitled "Love that Book".



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW CHAPTER 10

4. Tell Others

In Matthew 10:8 Jesus told His disciples "...freely you have received, freely give". This must be your attitude. Jesus has freely given you eternal life - now you must share that life with others. At the end of Matthew's account of the life of Jesus, he recorded the final instructions that Jesus gave to His disciples just before He ascended into heaven.



Matt
28:19-20

I encourage you to reach out to your family and friends and share with them the "good news". Don't worry if you don't know the bible very well, or if they ask you questions you don't have answers for. Tell them about Jesus. Tell them what He has done for you. Let them see how God has changed you. Show them the same love that God has shown you.



Mark 5:20

Jesus told Peter the fisherman that if he would follow Him that He would make him into a "fisher of men." Jesus wants to make you into a fisher of men. So reach out to those around you. Encourage them to come to church with you.

Give them books/CDs/podcasts to listen to. Pray for them. And you will have the joy of leading others to Jesus.



Matt 4:19



TO CHEW ON

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

Think about the phrase "I am... the truth." Take a few minutes to think about the fact that Jesus has not only said that He is the way, but He is the *true* way. Think about this. What is the difference between being "a way" and being "the true way."



TO LISTEN TO

SUCH AS I HAVE

Your message for today is entitled "Such As I Have".



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW CHAPTER 3

5. Be Baptised in Water

The word baptise means *to immerse*. In the bible a person would be baptised (or immersed under water) to symbolise that they are starting a new life. For instance, they would walk into a river and then someone would lower them under the water and then lift them back up. This was to demonstrate that their old life was being washed away and they were living a new life for God.



Matt
3:5-6

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, water baptism became even more significant as the waters now represented a grave. A person being baptised was showing that they have “died with Jesus” and have been raised up to live a new life with Him.



Rom 6:3-4

Your baptism is an *outward* demonstration of an *inward* work. You have died with Christ and have been raised from the dead (spiritually). When you are baptised your body is lowered into the water (the grave) and then you are raised up again (resurrection).

The bible instructs those who have been saved to be baptised in water, so I encourage you to be baptised at the first opportunity. It is a chance for you to show others what Jesus has done for you. I suggest you speak to your Grow Team Leader about water baptism.



Acts 2:38



TO CHEW ON

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Think about the phrase "I am... the life." Take a few minutes to think about the fact that Jesus is the life. Why did Jesus say that He is "the life." How does He bring life to people?



TO LISTEN TO

LOOK AT ME

Your message for today is entitled "Look At Me"



BIBLE READING

ACTS CHAPTER 2

6. Be Baptised in the Holy Spirit

Yesterday we looked at a verse that referred to people being baptised. The last part of that verse talks about people receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit:



Acts 2:38

You may be wondering who is the Holy Spirit and what is the gift of the Spirit that this verse speaks about? Firstly, let's find out a little about the Holy Spirit.

There is only one God but He exists in three separate but totally united persons. God, the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit. At the end of His life on earth, Jesus told His disciples that He was going away (after Jesus rose from the dead He was taken back to heaven) but they weren't to be dismayed as He was going to send them someone "just like Himself."



John
14:16-17

The "gift of the Spirit" is also known as the "baptism in the Holy Spirit." When you are baptised in water you are immersed in water, so to be baptised in the Spirit is to be fully immersed in the Holy Spirit.

Let me explain this. When you are saved you receive the Holy Spirit. He takes up residence in your life. So therefore, all Christians HAVE the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Spirit is a separate experience to your salvation. When you are baptised in the Spirit you are *immersed* in the Spirit. It enables you to experience the closeness and power of the Holy Spirit in a much more effective way.

One of the abilities the Holy Spirit will give you when you are immersed in him is to enable you to speak in other languages (which is referred to in some bibles as "speaking in tongues"). This is an ability to pray in a language you haven't learned with the Holy Spirit providing the words. It is a powerful gift as it enables you to pray with God's words for a situation. You might not know how to pray - but when you are "speaking in tongues" you are praying the best prayer because you are praying exactly as God wants.



Acts 2:4



Rom8:26-27

Ask your Grow Team or your pastor to pray with you that you might be baptised in the Holy Spirit. After you have been baptised in the Spirit, spend time speaking in tongues every day.



TO CHEW ON

JOHN 14:6 Jesus told him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Think about the phrase "No one comes to the Father except through Me." Take a few minutes to think about how Jesus is the only one who can provide access to God.

Say the whole verse out loud. Close your eyes and see if you can say the verse without looking at it.



TO LISTEN TO

A SUPER CHARGED LIFE

Your message for today is entitled "A Super-Charged Life".



BIBLE READING

GENESIS CHAPTER 2

Is everyone in the Grow Team connected to a local church? How have they found this experience?

What are some of the different kinds of prayers people have been praying this week?

When reading the bible, what truth has God revealed to them this week? How has it impacted them?

What has been the result of their sharing with others about Jesus? Talk about everyone's experiences this week.

Discuss plans for holding a Water Baptism meeting.

Pray with one another for the Baptism in the Spirit. Spend a few minutes praying in tongues together.

Discuss the 6 daily messages they listened to



TO LISTEN TO

—

• **Week Three** •

Growing In Your New Life



WEEK THREE | DAY ONE



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 1

(For this week, your bible reading will be reading a chapter of the Book of Mark every day.)

Growing

Now that you are a Christian your life will be different - very different! Wonderful things have happened to you and now those areas need to be developed and strengthened. The bible declares that because you are now in Christ you are a new person.



2Cor 5:17

This is an exciting new life. But this is not a new life that comes totally complete straight away. No, you need to mature and develop in this new life. Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae was that they would get to know God better and better and through that they would continue to grow.



Col 1:9-10

This week we will look at how that process of growth works and what you can do in order to grow.



TO CHEW ON

Your verse to meditate on this week is 2Tim 3:16-17. Write this verse out:



2Tim
3:16-17



TO LISTEN TO

A TIME TO GROW

Your message for today is entitled "Time to Grow".



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 2

Growing in... Your Thinking

What we think has a profound effect on our lives. To truly change a person, you need to change the way they think about themselves and the world around them.



Rom 12:2

We continue to grow in our walk with God as our thinking is changed. Some bible translations put it like this: "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

That is why reading the bible and listening to messages by bible preachers is so beneficial. The bible teaches us the truth, which enables us to walk in freedom.



John 8:32



TO CHEW ON

Take time to read out loud 2Tim. 3:16-17.

***2Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

Read it out three to four times slowly. Thinking about each word as you say it.



TO LISTEN TO

METAMORPHOSIS

Your message for today is entitled "Metamorphosis".



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 3

Growing in... Your Relationship with Jesus (Part One)

It is God's desire for you not only to serve Him - but for you to grow closer to Him. The Apostle Paul said that it was his desire to "know Jesus". Don't be content to just learn *about* Jesus - develop a strong, vibrant relationship with Him.



Phil 3:10

How do you grow closer with Jesus? Well you can spend time talking to Him in prayer. Open up your heart and speak candidly with Him. You can also read about Him in the bible - and talk to Him about the things you learn.

Make it your life-long quest to know God.



2Pet 1:2



TO CHEW ON

2Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Think about the phrase, “all scripture is inspired by God.” Meditate on the fact that the bible is not just another book written by men – but the inspiration for the words have come from God.



TO LISTEN TO

A LIVING RELATIONSHIP

Your message for today is entitled “A Living Relationship”.



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 4

Growing in... Your Relationship with Jesus (Part Two)

Yesterday we talked about how important it is to grow in your walk with Jesus. Today we will look at two things you can do to help develop your relationship with Jesus.

1. You can get to know Him better through reading the bible. In today's Bible Reading from Mark chapter 4 there is the story of Jesus stopping a storm which was threatening to sink their boat. Re-read verses 35-41 and think about what you can learn about Jesus.

Write down your thoughts:



You will get to know Jesus better by spending time talking with Him. In the same way that your relationship with a friend grows stronger as you spend time sharing with them, you can develop your friendship with Jesus by praying. God hears our prayers. He listens as we talk to Him.

Take a few minutes to talk to Jesus about the things you have learned about Him. Be honest and open in your communication. There is no-one you can trust more with your innermost thoughts and desires than Jesus.



TO CHEW ON

2Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Think about the phrase, "is useful to teach us." How is the bible useful? Some of the other definitions for useful are "helpful, profitable, advantageous." Meditate on how the bible is each of these things.



TO LISTEN TO

YOUR MOST FAITHFUL FRIEND

Your message for today is entitled "Your Most Faithful Friend".



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 5

Growing in... Your Lifestyle

Your life will become more and more holy.



1Pet 1:15

What does the word “holy” mean? Some people have the wrong idea about holiness. They think that to live holy is something very negative and undesirable. But this is not true at all. Someone who is holy is simply living a life which is given over to God. Their life is set apart for God's exaltation and glory. Living a holy life is a wonderful life of freedom and joy.

In order to embrace God's way of life though, we must let go of our old way of living. We can no longer live our lives for our own desires, instead we must follow the Holy Spirit's guidance and live for God. Jesus died so we would no longer be under the control of sin and we would be free to obey God.



2Cor 7:1

God has freed us from the power of sin. Our responsibility is to stop giving ourselves over to sin and instead give ourselves to God to be used by Him.



TO CHEW ON

2Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Think about the phrase, "It corrects us when we are wrong." How do you feel when you are corrected? Is it healthy to never be corrected? Meditate on the benefits of being corrected by God's word.



TO LISTEN TO

HOLY LIFESTYLE, BATMAN

Your message for today is entitled "Holy Lifestyle, Batman".

WEEK THREE | DAY SIX



BIBLE READING

MARK CHAPTER 6

Growing in... God's Plan

God has a wonderful plan for each of us. He has an amazing plan for you. God has good works set aside for you to fulfil.



You need to embrace God's plans for your life with the same fervour with which He has embraced you.





TO CHEW ON

2Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip

his people to do every good work.

Think about the phrase, "God uses it to prepare and equip His people." What do you think the bible is preparing you for? How does it equip you?

Say the whole verse out loud. Close your eyes and see if you can say the verse without looking at it.



TO LISTEN TO

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Your message for today is entitled "God's Masterpiece".



GROW TEAM WEEKLY MEETING

This week has been all about growth. Discuss what areas people have been growing in since following Jesus.

How is their relationship with Jesus growing?

Have family/friends/workmates noticed changes in your life?

- Have they been supportive? Curious? Antagonistic?
- How have you responded to them?
- Have family/friends/workmates noticed changes in your life?

Are there areas of your lifestyle that you are wanting to change, but are struggling with?

Discuss the plans that God may have for your life. What can you do to pursue those plans?

IN CONCLUSION...

In conclusion let me finish with a passage from the book of Ephesians.

Once you were under God's curse, doomed forever for your sins. You went along with the crowd and were just like all the others, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air, who is at work right now in the hearts of those who are against the Lord. All of us used to be just as they are, our lives expressing the evil within us, doing every wicked thing that our passions or our evil thoughts might lead us into. We started out bad, being born with evil natures, and were under God's anger just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy; He loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, He gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead - only by His undeserved favour have we ever been saved - and lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ, where we sit with Him in the heavenly realms - all because of what Christ Jesus did. And now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich His kindness is, as shown in all He has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Because of His kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

WHAT NEXT?

Congratulations on completing the "Welcome" Grow Team. I encourage you now to become part of a Grow Team where you build on what you have just learnt and will equip you with foundational skills in being a follower of Jesus.

If you are not already part of a regular Grow Team, speak to your Grow Team Leader about joining one.