

# GOD'S POWERFUL WORD



CITY BIBLE  
**FORUM+**



## GOD'S POWERFUL WORD



### WHAT'S INSIDE

City Bible Forum seeks to encourage Christian workers to invite their colleagues to read through a Gospel, perhaps over a coffee or lunch. This study seeks to give you confidence to do this by exploring the power of the word of God to save people - to bring finite, fallen, broken people to understand and trust the transcendent, invisible, hidden God. Only God's word has power to do that!

### CONTENTS

1. God's Powerful Word
2. God works through his word
3. God works by his Spirit in his word
4. People meet Jesus through his word
5. God builds his kingdom by his word

### HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These EPT studies are short modules to help workers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®  
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# GOD'S POWERFUL WORD

1

**“With great power comes great responsibility”**

**The biggest movies over the last decade or so have been about superheros where heroes and villains wield amazing CGI powers.**

**But what does power look like in everyday life?**

## BIG IDEA

God's word isn't just powerful, it's effective. It accomplishes exactly what God intends it to.

Often in life, power is not the arm that swings the hammer – but the word of the one who told the arm to swing it. So too with God, we see his power principally in his word.

God made everything by his word (Genesis 1:3, Psalm 33:6, John 1:3), and by his word he holds the universe together (Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17).

Think of the power involved in creating and sustaining the universe. Apparently only 0.7g of the uranium of the 'Little Boy' bomb dropped on Hiroshima actually produced the 15 000 tons of TNT equivalent blast that levelled much of the city. Now think of the power it takes to create all matter and then keep it in its place – that's power!



## From the Bible

What do you notice about God's word?

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

**Isaiah 55:10-11**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

**Romans 1:16**



## Key Truths

1. God's word makes the impossible possible. It brings light from dark, the universe from nothing, and life from death.
2. God's powerful word isn't frustrated by any other power - even the combined might of human opposition.
3. When God's word in the gospel comes to humanity, it is the power to save. God's word makes dear children from his enemies.
4. When we feel ashamed of the gospel, we don't trust the power of the word of God. We shy away from declaring the gospel and stay silent when we should speak up. We feel shame because we don't understand the power of the word of God.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Spurgeon used to say that defending the Bible is like trying to defend a lion. You don't defend a lion, you let it loose. When have you been tempted to be ashamed of God's word?

If we are convinced that God's word is powerful, we are empowered to let it loose. How would things look different at work if you were convinced of the power of God's word?

The power and effectiveness of God's word is why we suggest using Word 121 ([theword121.com](http://theword121.com))



## Prayer

- Pray that we wouldn't be ashamed of the gospel in our workplace but have confidence in God's word to bring people to salvation.
- Pray for an opportunity to take the next steps with your colleagues.

### Remember as you pray:



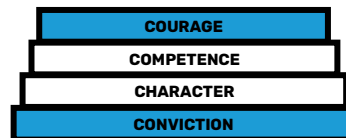
**Coffee**



**Dinner**



**Gospel**



### How do you see God work in our world?

#### BIG IDEA

God works in the world by His powerful word.

Australians tend to be cynical about how much work people in executive roles actually do. The assumption is that unless you use a tool, it's not real work.

But executive work is about using words to get things done – to sell a vision, motivate people, and give orders. This is how God works; God acts by speaking.

God's words actually achieve things. Think back to the creation story. How did God create?

As we saw last week – God keeps all things sustained by his powerful word (Hebrews 1:3). God speaks and the world happens – and continues to happen because of God's word. God works by his word!

Jesus, with his words, calmed storms, healed the sick, fed thousands, and forgave sins. Jesus' words were his work – he was a preacher.

2 Peter 3:5-7 says that the same word that made all things will also be the word that kicks off the judgment of all things. And so, it's amazing to think God's word can also be the gospel word we speak.



## From the Bible

What do you notice about the Word of God?

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**



## Key Truths

1. The gospel preached to the Thessalonians isn't just a human word but is the word of God!
2. God's word is at work in us who believe. When we speak the message of the gospel, people hear not just our words – they hear God's word.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

As we share Jesus with a friend, we do so because God is the one who works through our words. This gives us great confidence that we're not just speaking empty words – but perhaps even the very word of God!



## Prayer

- Pray for one another – for an open door to speak a clear message about Jesus when the opportunity arises, remembering God works through His word.
- Pray for those currently reading the word with an enquirer – pray that God would work powerfully by his word.

### Remember as you pray:



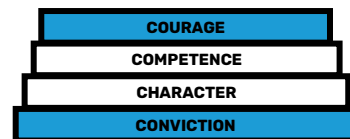
**Coffee**



**Dinner**



**Gospel**





## GOD WORKS BY HIS SPIRIT AND HIS WORD

# 3

**The Holy Spirit is often the overlooked partner as we seek to share Jesus, but he plays a vital role as people become Christians. How have you experienced this?**

### BIG IDEA

God's Spirit works in His word to reveal himself to His world.

In its essence, speaking is controlled breathing. As you breathe your vocal cords, throat, nose, mouth, lips and tongue modulate the air to make the intricate sounds that form words. Words and breathing are intricately linked – Greek and Hebrew use one word for wind and breath – and the Spirit and the Word are closely intertwined in the Bible too.

That's why the sword of the *Spirit* is the *word* of God (Ephesians 6:17), the incarnation of the *Word* is done by the Holy *Spirit* (Luke 1:35), Scripture is *breathed* out by God (2 Timothy 3:16), prophecy in *Scripture* doesn't originate in the mind of the prophet, but comes from the *Spirit* of God (2 Peter 1:20-21).

And so, reading the word of God is not the same as reading the news or your Facebook feed. Reading the Bible is a *spiritual* activity. But more importantly the Spirit is intimately involved in the word because that's how God reveals himself to us – through his word, by his Spirit.



## From the Bible

What do you notice about the Spirit?

... as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love him"-- <sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-12**

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

**1 Peter 1:12**



## Key Truths

1. When we preach the gospel using God's word – it is God's Spirit who works in and through us!
2. God works by his powerful word through his Spirit as we use his word to share Jesus with people.

## Thoughts? Questions?



## Application

Do you want to share Jesus in the power of God's Spirit? Recognise the best way is through his word.

Who could you help meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible under the strength of God's Holy Spirit?



## Prayer

- Pray for wisdom about who to invite to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.
- Pray for the opportunities to share Jesus, in the power of God's Spirit, with your colleagues.
- Pray that God would reveal himself to those currently reading the Bible with us.

### Remember as you pray:



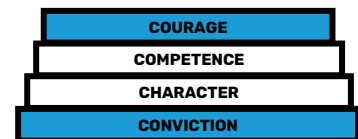
**Coffee**



**Dinner**



**Gospel**



## PEOPLE MEET JESUS THROUGH THE WORD

# 4

**City Bible Forum's key aim is to see 1000 people in Australia meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible. But why the Bible? Why not help people meet Jesus in some sort of personal encounter - on a mountain, in a forest, in a church?**

### BIG IDEA

People meet Jesus in God's word.

There may be many different places where people might meet Jesus - Paul met him on the road to Damascus after all. But God has given us his word where we can meet Jesus and help others do the same.



### From the Bible

How can we have life?

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

<sup>28</sup> "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out - those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned...

<sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, <sup>38</sup> nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

**John 5:24-29 & 37-40**

## Key Truths

1. Eternal life is given to whoever hears Jesus' word and believes in the Father who sent him.
2. The time has come for the dead to hear the voice of the Son of God and live. It's time for people to hear the voice of Jesus and rise to judgment.
3. Knowing the Scriptures doesn't save us, but the Scriptures save as they testify to Jesus - and people come to him to have life.

### **Thoughts? Questions?**

## Application

Jesus is the perfect revelation of God (John 1:1-18), and it is through the Bible that we see and meet Jesus. The Old Testament points towards Jesus, the New Testament reveals him in history. The best thing we can do is introduce people to Jesus; help them meet him in the pages of the Bible - particularly in a gospel. We want to help them hear his voice for themselves, so they might live.

## Prayer

- Who are you praying for to invite to read through a Gospel with you?
- Pray that those currently reading a Gospel would meet Jesus.

### **Remember as you pray:**



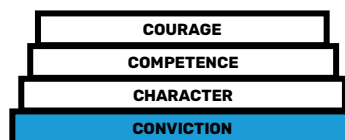
**Coffee**



**Dinner**



**Gospel**





# GOD BUILDS HIS KINGDOM BY HIS WORD

# 5

**Jesus once compared the growth of the kingdom of God to the growth of a mustard tree. It starts from a tiny mustard seed and grows into a tree big enough to support birds in its branches. That's amazing growth!**

**How does this growth happen?**

## BIG IDEA

God's kingdom grows as the word of God builds us up.



## From the Bible

How is God's word building us up?

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

## Key Truths

1. God's gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) to the church is to equip the people for works of service with a view to building the church. These are 'word' roles, preaching, teaching, rebuking, and proclaiming God's word.
2. God reveals himself to us in his word. Through the Bible we meet Jesus, and we continue to be built up (see also Ephesians 5:25-27) and are made mature. God's word is God's way of building the church – in evangelism, and in maturity. God's word is how we make disciples who live holy lives and make more disciples.

### **Thoughts? Questions?**

## Application

God's word is powerful. God's word is how God works in our world. God's Spirit works principally through his word. We meet Jesus through God's word, and God builds his kingdom. This is why we believe it so important that we see as many people as possible meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

Who are *you* going to invite to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible?

## Prayer

- If you haven't already done so, take some time to think of three people in your workplace who you could invite to read a gospel with you.
- Share and pray for opportunities to ask and to read the Bible with those people. Pray that God would continue to grow his kingdom in our cities.

### **Remember as you pray:**



**Coffee**



**Dinner**



**Gospel**

