



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS

TERM 4

2022



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAM

TERM 4
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

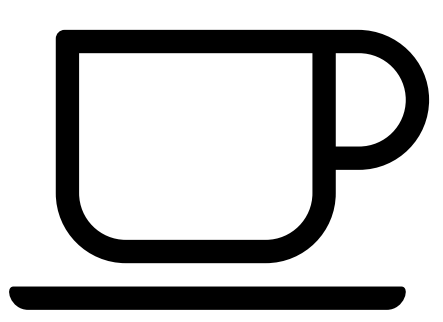


EVANGELISTIC
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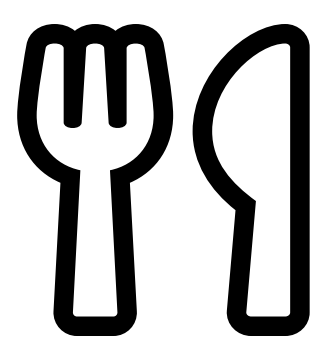
TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

COFFEE



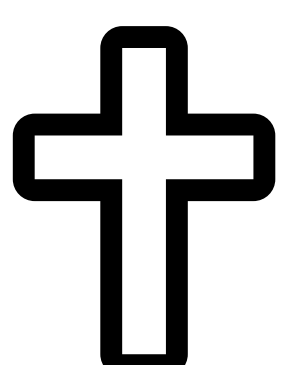
Shared a personal conversation
Knows I'm Christian
Spent social time together

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

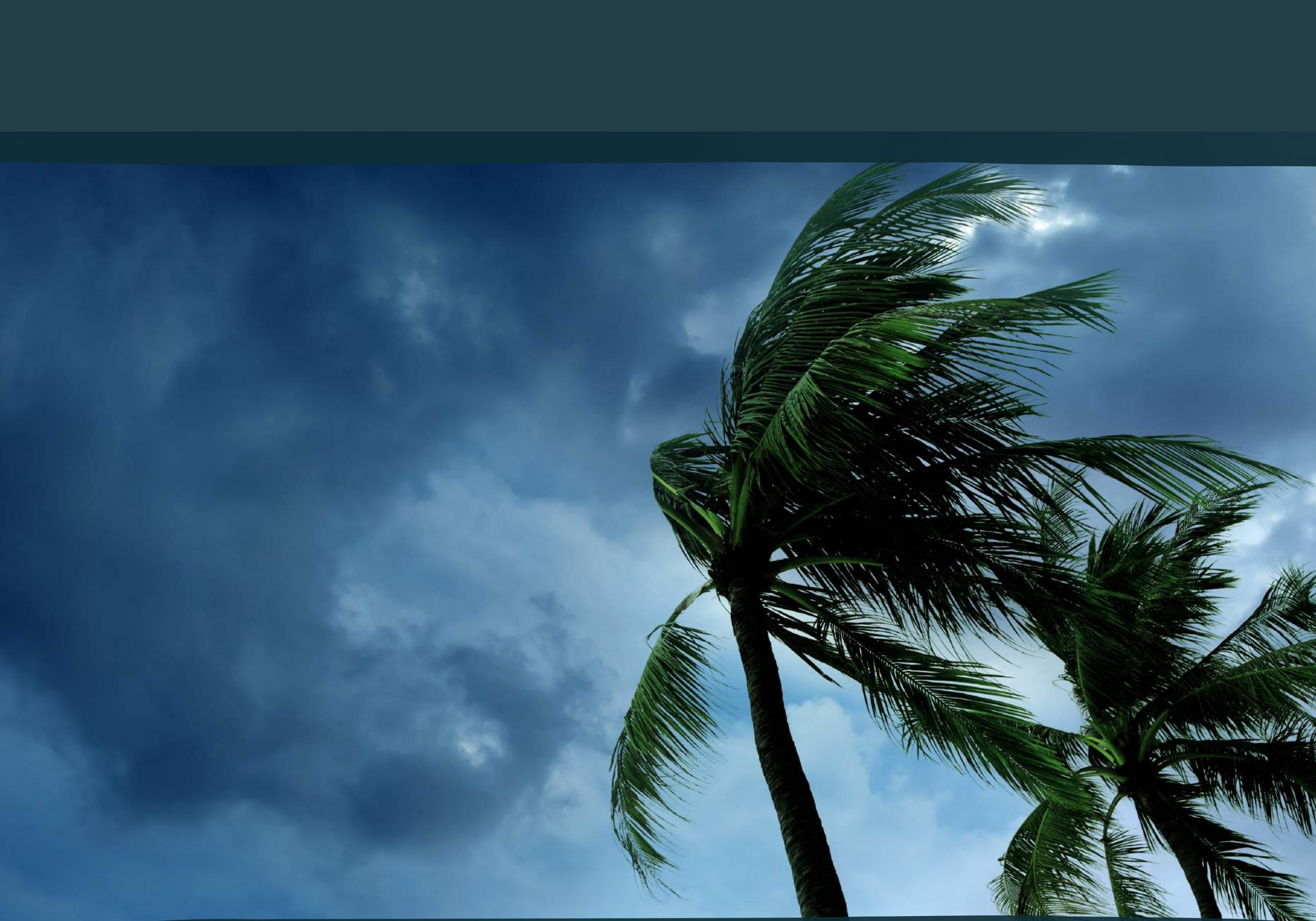
GOD IN THE STORM

LOVING JESUS MUCH

THE GRACE OF GIVING

PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE

REFLECTION



GOD IN THE STORM



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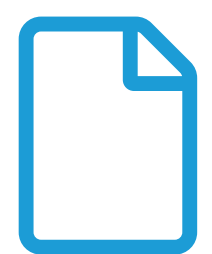
GOD IN THE STORM

Course Overview



Course Summary

These studies explore Psalms of God's people in times of turmoil.



Course Structure

1: KNOW THAT I AM GOD

2: COPING THROUGH THE STORM

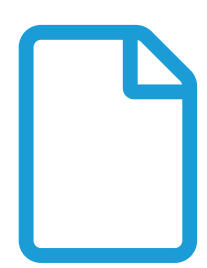
3: SURROUNDED BY LIONS



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GOD IN THE STORM

1. KNOW THAT I AM GOD



Introduction

Have you ever faced an impossible situation?



Big Picture

Though it may not look it – as the nations rage against God – God is the victor building his kingdom.



Bible Passage

*Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*

¹⁰ *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

¹¹ *The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Psalm 46:8-11



Key Truths

1. As you look through history, kingdoms rise, empires fall, nothing lasts forever. A superpower always looks unstoppable until it falls. We're invited to oversee the ruins God has brought over the earth as great powers are brought to nothing, wars are stopped, bow and spear are shattered.
2. Be still! Be still and know that I am God is a favourite for serene Christian posters. But given the military context, it can't be talking about seeking quiet moments to hear from God. The Christian Standard Bible says "Stop fighting" – it's a command from God. As the nations line up outside God's city and his people, God demands they give up now.
3. And know that I am God. God is exalted above all the earth, no one can stand against him. Knowing God is understanding him truly – he is the Lord of all. And this God – who we know as Father – is our defender too. We stand on the walls of the city of God and see the opposing powers and superpowers throwing down their weapons in surrender before our God.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

When you're in the middle of strong opposition or even persecution, the people opposing us seem unstoppable. How can we ever hope to stand up under it?

When the idea of sharing Jesus at work comes up, inevitably the fear arises – “But if I mention Jesus in my workplace I could lose my job!” Now, it may not be as drastic as that, but there is a real sense in our workplaces today that talking about Jesus could have some serious impacts upon our career. How does knowing our God is exalted among all nations and authorities help address our fears of the authority over us in the workplace?



Prayer

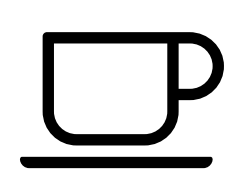
Pray for boldness to share Jesus when people may not welcome him in our workplaces.

Pray that as you face potential opposition that you would remember that God wins – and is truly exalted over all!

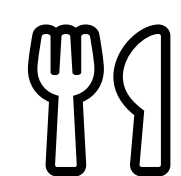
Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus this week.

Remember

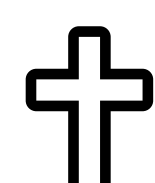
COFFEE



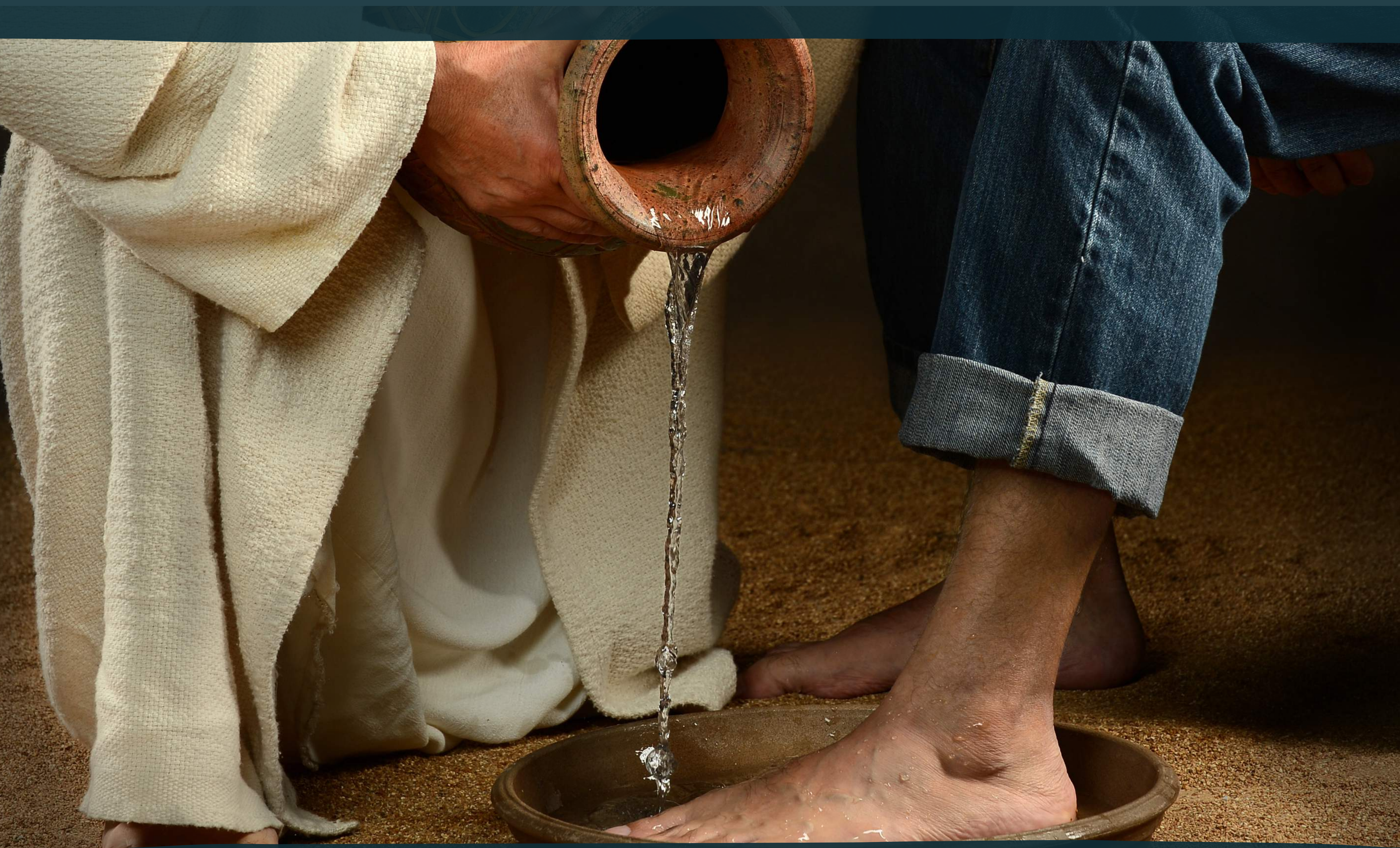
DINNER



GOSPEL



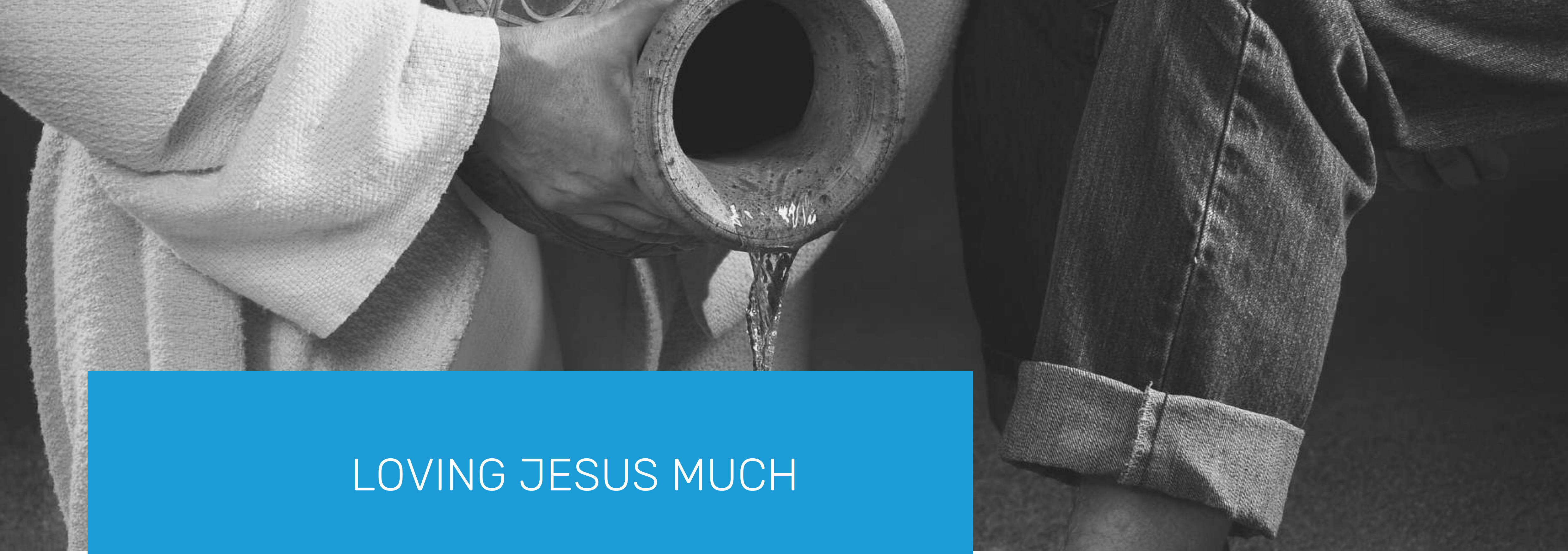
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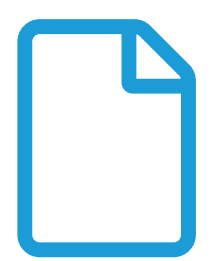
LOVING JESUS MUCH



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LOVING JESUS MUCH
Course Overview



Course Summary

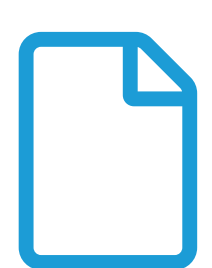
This study examines how love for Jesus drives our efforts to share Jesus with others.



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LOVE JESUS MUCH



Introduction

We're a strange bunch, Christians. We love to sing and talk about loving Jesus – particularly when we get together on a Sunday. But when we're on our own on a Monday, what does it look like to love Jesus then?



Big Picture

The one forgiven much, loves Jesus much; the one forgiven little, loves Jesus little. Our sharing of Jesus is an indication of how much we love Jesus.



Bible Passage

Turning to the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she, with her tears, has washed My feet and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave Me no kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing My feet since I came in. ⁴⁶You didn't anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little."

Luke 7:44-47



Key Truths

1. Great love risks shame. The woman is so impacted by forgiveness that she enters a house where she knows she isn't welcome, just so she can thank Jesus.
2. Rico Tice has said "...we talk about what we love. [...] So for as long as Jesus is not my greatest love, I will keep quiet about him in order to serve my greatest love, my idol" if we love Jesus, we will talk about him.
3. If we lack love for Jesus, maybe it's because we've forgotten how much we've been forgiven.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We can't read this passage and not pause to ask, "do I love Jesus much or little?"

What risks am I not willing to take for Jesus' sake?

Whose disapproval do I fear? Whose rejection scares me?

This woman risked going where she knew she would face rejection. Are you willing to risk rejection to speak of Jesus?



Prayer

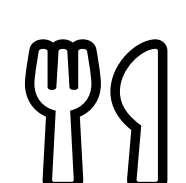
Pray for an encounter with that colleague you fear more than you ought.
Pray for an abounding love for Jesus that would drive you to share him with that colleague.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



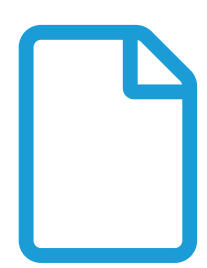
GOSPEL



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GOD IN THE STORM

2. WHEN YOU'RE AT SEA



Introduction

Not waving, drowning. We have all had those moments where we've felt completely overwhelmed - wave after wave have crashed over us, Maybe you've had someone say to you - "Where is your god?".

What do you do?

Do you just knuckle in and get on with it? Do you curl up into a ball? How do you cope?



Big Picture

The Christian life should be a distinctive flavour for our friends and colleagues; once tasted it should never be forgotten.



Bible Passage

My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

⁸ By day the Lord directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God my Rock,

"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"

¹⁰ My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
"Where is your God?"

¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42:6-11



Key Truths

1. Even when God feels absent, he's there. "Why have you forgotten me?" Even though the Psalmist can't sense God's presence – he acknowledges that God is still there – after all they aren't just any waterfalls and waves, they are God's waterfalls and breakers and waves – God is there. Indeed, as "deep calls to deep" there is a sense in which there is divine communication even in suffering.
2. Feel down? Get historical! Remember how God has dealt with you in the past. David remembers God's goodness in the land. We can remember God's goodness in the giving of his Son (Romans 8:32). We can bring to mind times of blessing by God's hand in the past and look forward to God renewing that goodness.
3. Trust in God can look like despair. When we're disappointed, dejected, or despairing, it is our privilege as God's people to bring our complaints to God. "God why have you forgotten me?" is a legitimate prayer of the faithful. When you are getting more than your fair share of life's waves crashing over you, it is the act of the faithful to bring that emotion to God.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We are often victims of our feelings when it comes to our Christian walk with God. When things are going well, we assume God is with us. When we feel awful, or when life is dumping on us, God seems far away. We feel bad, and then feel worse because we assume that God is angry with us or we've failed. We feel we should be thankful and joyful – but we don't and so we spiral down.

So it is comforting to read this Psalm that shows us how the faithful can express their depression before God.

The workplace can feel like an oppressive or overwhelming place at times, how does this Psalm help us when we feel like that?



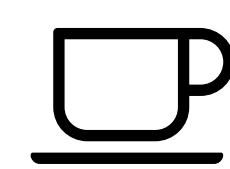
Prayer

Pray that you would remember God's goodness during low times.

Pray that you would trust in God when you are overwhelmed.

Remember

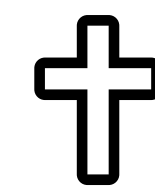
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





THE GRACE OF GIVING

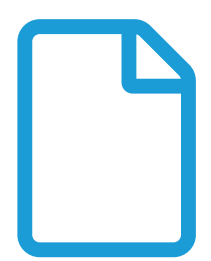


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THE GRACE OF GIVING

Course Overview



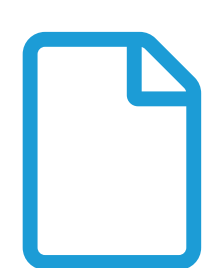
Course Summary

This study examines how giving for the kingdom is a great joy for God's people.



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THE GRACE OF GIVING



Introduction



If Australia is the lucky country, it's certainly not the generous one.
Do you think generosity is a valued virtue in Australia?



Big Picture

Generosity that gives to the kingdom of God is not an innate attribute but comes as a gift of God. Giving is a privilege in joining with God and his people to build his kingdom.

* Based on Roy Morgan and Koda research from 2019 and 2018 respectively



Bible Passage

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your ⁷part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2 Corinthians 8:1-7**



Key Truths

1. Extraordinary generosity is a gift of God. The Macedonian churches out of an overflowing of their joy demonstrated rich generosity despite facing severe trials and extreme poverty.
2. The Macedonians gave beyond their ability, pleading for the privilege of sharing with their brothers and sisters abroad.
3. By the grace of God we can excel in fruitfulness; in faith, speech, knowledge, diligence and in love. We can also excel in giving generously by the grace of God.
4. The grace of God enables us to give generously for the good of God's people. Only by the grace of God can we ever hope to give generously.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We tend to break up ways of showing fruit into those areas that are a privilege (speaking, leading, etc) and those that are a chore (cleaning the toilets, doing the accounts etc) {though maybe for you those lists might swap}. Does giving generously for the good of God's people and for the kingdom fill you with joy or make you groan? Is it a joy or chore?

When requests for financial support come do you groan or cheer?

Do you find yourself spiritually giving yourself a pat on the back when you give?

When we give, we can quickly forget that it's actually God working his grace in us. What difference does it make when we remember this important fact?

Supporting City Bible Forum

City Bible Forum relies on the generosity of God through his people. Giving to City Bible Forum can be an opportunity to joyfully live out the grace God has lavished upon us.

There are many great things for Christians to support: local church, overseas missions, the poor. But have you considered regularly supporting City Bible Forum?

Maybe you're short on cash but can give in other ways. People have supported City Bible Forum through many creative ways in the past. There have been Jazz nights, cocktail banquets, hosted dinners, canoe adventures, bike rides, mentoring sessions... could you organise a fundraiser for City Bible Forum?



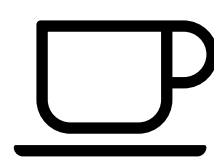
Prayer

Pray for joyful generous hearts.

Pray for the finances of City Bible Forum, that God would provide for us so we can continue to reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.

Remember

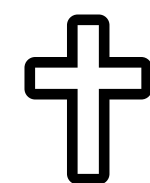
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DINNER



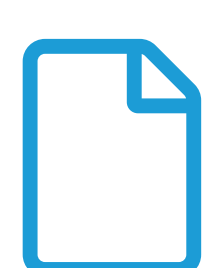
GOSPEL



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GOD IN THE STORM

3. SURROUNDED BY LIONS



Introduction

Recently, ABC radio presenter Richard Glover (not a Christian), invited a Biblical scholar to share about the historical roots of Christmas. He received a torrent of abuse, experiencing what has increasingly been a familiar feeling for Christians in the workplace, where 'roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against' us (Psalm 22:13). How do we respond? Do we stand up and fight? Or duck and hide? (or something else?)



Big Picture

When surrounded by hostility, God's anointed one (David) sought God's presence and strength and in response declares God's praises as the whole world turns to the Lord.



Bible Passage

*But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
²² I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you.
²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

²⁴ *For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.
²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
²⁸ for dominion belongs to the Lord
and he rules over the nations.*

Psalm 22:19-24, 27-28



Key Truths

1. David was God's anointed king, but despite all this his life was constantly surrounded by pain and enemies. How he responds to the antagonism surrounding him is interesting – He begs for God's presence and deliverance.
2. David looks forward to responding to God's salvation by declaring the good news of God's deliverance. Evangelism is a great response to hostility!
3. David anticipates that the result of the praise of God will be that the ends of the earth turn to God as their Lord. The only way to change the world, of feeding the poor (v26), of justice and righteousness reigning, and for worship to ring around the world is for the gospel to be declared (v29).
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?" (v1) This Psalm so identifies with David's son, Jesus, that it reads like his own personal reflection on his crucifixion – even down to the villains surrounding him and piercing his hands and feet (v16). God's deliverance costs Jesus – but through it all he trusted God and God exalted him. And so he brings the nations home.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

When the pressure comes, our reflex is to do something – fight or flight. David's response is to seek God's presence – his strength and deliverance. How would it change your workplace if you sought God's presence in prayer as you began? Or as trouble or conflict arose?

When revival came to Wales in the beginning of the last century, the pit ponies needed to be retrained to do their work because they no longer recognised their master's voices without all the swearing and blasphemy. Often we feel completely powerless against the hostility of our workplace, but we forget that God can change the hearts of everyone in our workplace – just as he has been changing ours. Culture change comes as the gospel of Jesus is shared in love.

Application (Cont.)

When hostility comes, our response is to stop sharing Jesus (assuming we started). When the culture around us is toxic, when it mocks us (and those like us) for trusting God (v7-8) our last instinct is to lovingly declare God's praises. But the one weapon we have is the sword of the Spirit, the only resource we have to change our workplace culture is the Spirit-empowered gospel of Jesus. As we do so, we hope and pray that the whole world will be changed as the gospel of Jesus is declared everywhere – including in our workplace and with our colleagues.

Prayer

Pray for the toxic or unhelpful aspects of your workplace. Pray that the gospel of Jesus would shape and change your workplace culture.

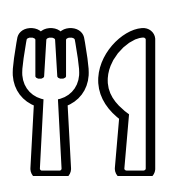
Pray for someone who may seem far from God, but would be radically changed by the gospel.

Remember

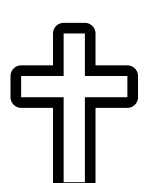
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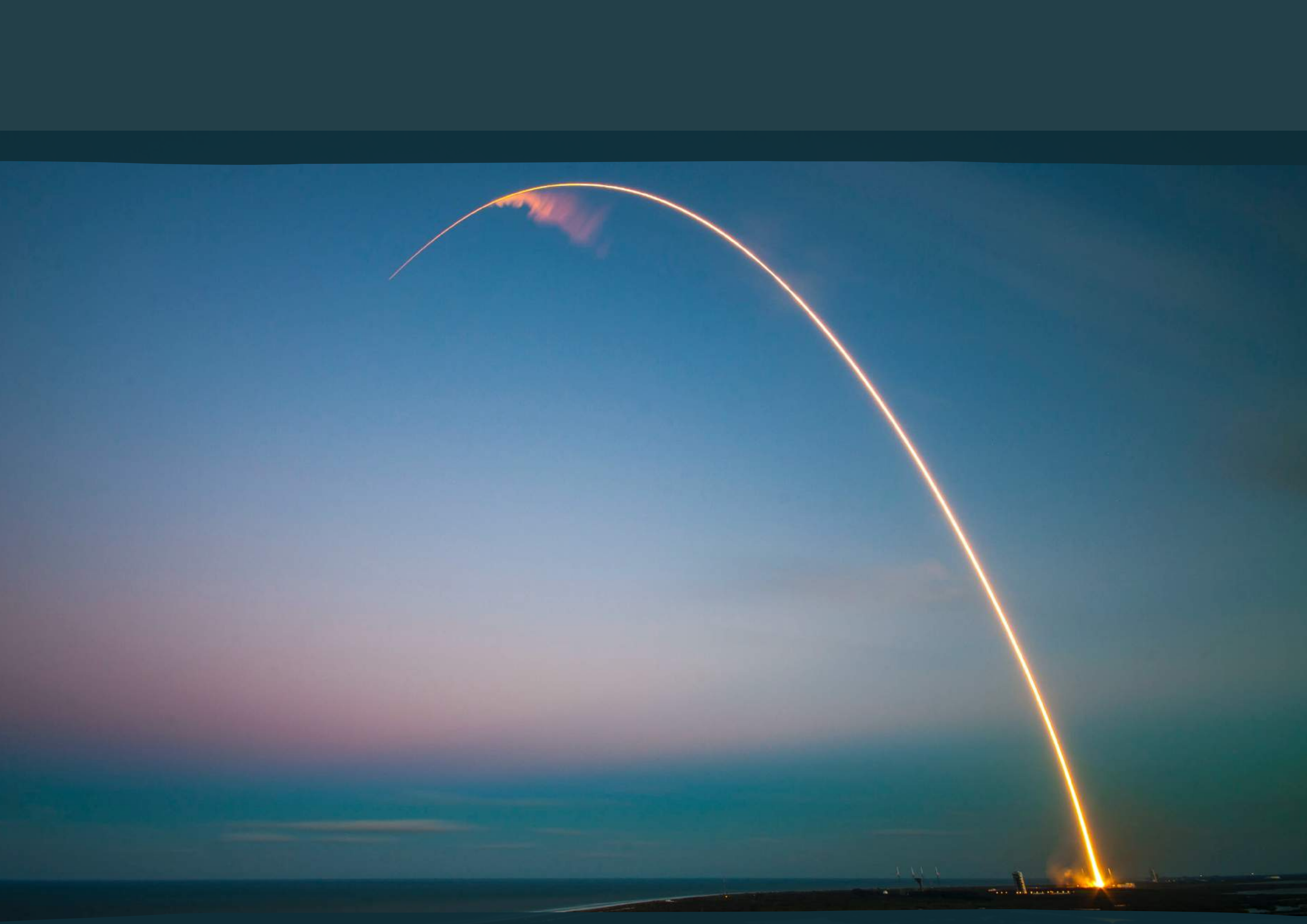


DINNER



GOSPEL






PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE

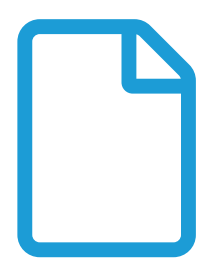


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PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE

Course Overview



Course Summary

This study examines how we might pray in response to pressure to keep quiet about Jesus.



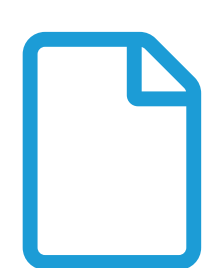
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Photo by SpaceX on Unsplash

PRAYER IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE



Introduction

Imagine HR announces a new policy – religious talk of kind is forbidden in your workplace. How would you respond to pressure to keep quiet about Jesus?



Big Picture

When facing pressure to keep quiet about Jesus, it's time to pray that God would enable us to speak more boldly.



Bible Passage

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.”²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Acts 4:24-30



Key Truths

1. Peter and John are ordered by the Sanhedrin to stop speaking in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). The response of the believers in Jerusalem is to obey God and not humans.
2. The same hatred that led to the death of Jesus, is the same hatred directed towards the believers that tries to force them to stop talking.
3. "They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen." Nothing takes God by surprise! God is in control – even when Jesus died. And God is in control when believers face persecution. So we can pray even then.
4. The believers' response to people attempting to shut them up was – praying for boldness to speak of Jesus even more! (But also remember Peter's instruction in 1 Peter 3:15 that we should do so with gentleness and respect).

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

How do we respond to pressure to be silent about Jesus?

What is the difference between keeping quiet about Jesus in the workplace and being wise about when to speak about Jesus?

Remember Coffee – Dinner – Gospel as an approach to sharing Jesus in the workplace means seeking opportunities to share Jesus with work colleagues through relational engagement, often outside the workplace.

If you don't know about Coffee – Dinner – Gospel have a look at citybibleforum.org/sjaw or citybibleforum.org/cdg.



Prayer

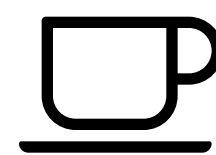
Pray that in the face of increasing pressure to be silent about Jesus that we would speak all the more boldly about him.

Ask that God would work in his miraculous power to bring people to faith in Jesus.

What is the next step with your colleagues?

Remember

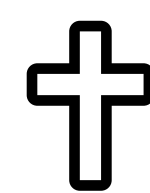
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





REFLECTION



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS



REFLECTION

It's time to reflect over everything God has been doing this year.

Think back over the year - look over your prayer notes and messages.
What has God done in our lives together this year?

Reflect

What has God been teaching you this year?

Where and how have you seen God working?

With whom have you seen significant progress in relationship?

Who has begun meeting Jesus?

Share

Share with the team a difficulty or challenge God has brought you through.
Share with the team an answer to prayer you have seen.

Prayer

Thank God for answered prayer.

Thank God for his presence in the city and at work.

Thank God for how he has worked this year and displayed his glory.

Pray for your colleagues - that even now God would reveal himself to them.

Celebrate

If you haven't already done so, why not have a meal together to celebrate your year together?