



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



TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

COFFEE

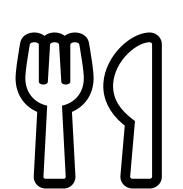
Shared a personal conversation

Spent social time together

Knows I'm Christian

DINNER

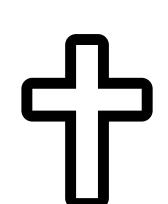
I understand their worldview



I've shared the Bible worldview

GOSPEL

Made a clear presentation of gospel



Become Christian

Reading Bible

Joined a good church

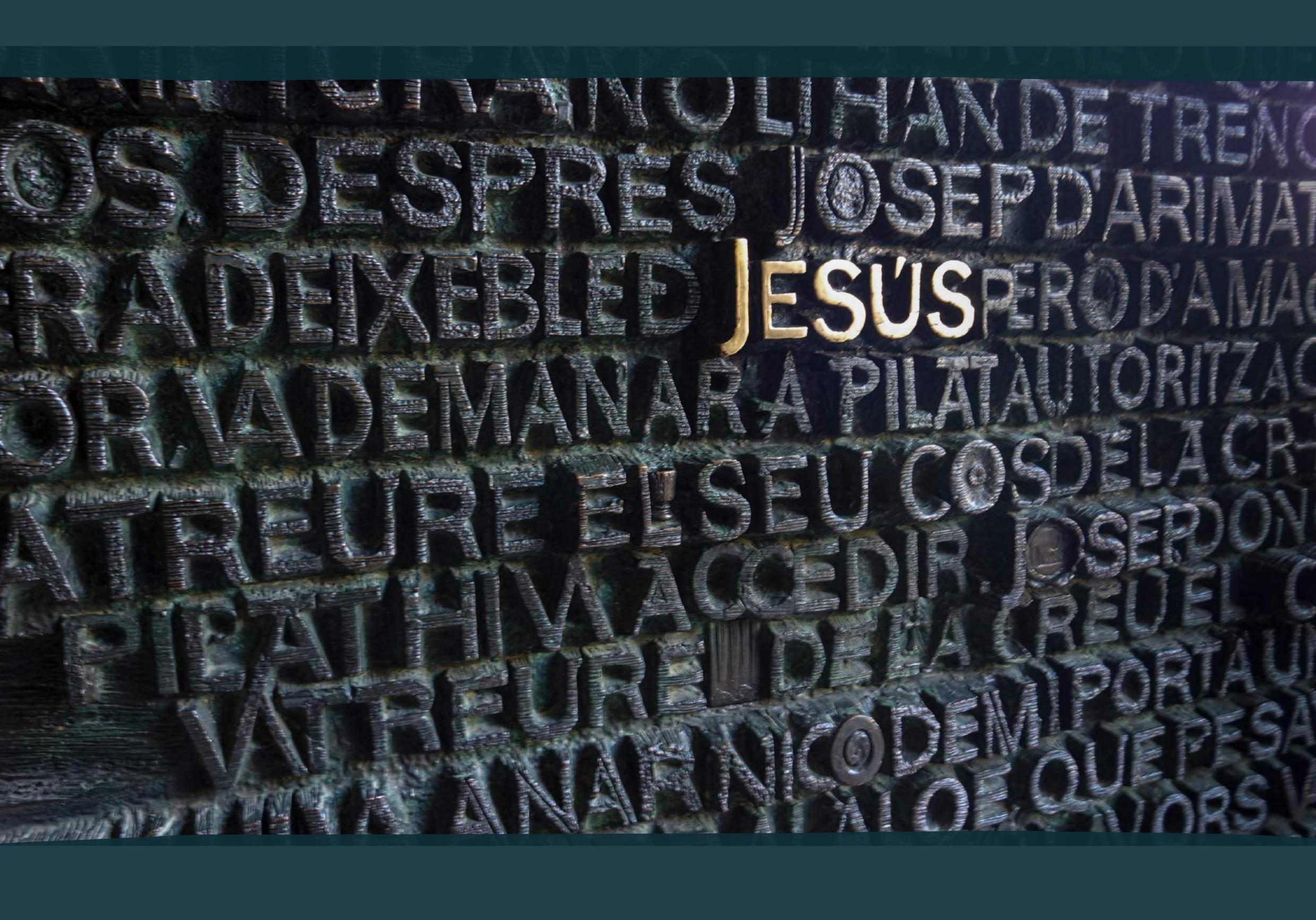


OVERVIEW

POWERFUL WORD OF GOD

GOD AND OUR STUFF

WORKING IN A HOSTILE AGE



GOD'S POWERFUL WORD





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GOD'S POWERFUL WORD



Course Summary

This study seeks to give you confidence to invite your co-workers and friends to read through a Gospel 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!



Course Structure

1: GOD'S POWERFUL WORD

2: GOD WORKS THROUGH HIS WORD

3: GOD WORKS BY HIS SPIRIT

4: PEOPLE MEET JESUS THROUGH HIS WORD

5: GOD BUILDS HIS KINGDOM BY HIS WORD









In what situations do you find yourself defending the Bible?

"The word of God can take care of itself, and will do so if we can preach it, and cease defending it. ... These mighty men are intent upon defending a lion. O fools, and slow of heart! Open that door! Let the lord of the forest come forth free." *Charles Spurgeon*

What do you think?



Big Picture

God's word is powerful and effective; it accomplishes exactly what God intends it to.



Bible Passage

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

Psalm 33:6

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Hebrews 1:3



Bible Passage (cont.)

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:6



Key Truths

- 1. God made everything by his word, and by his word he holds the universe together.
- 2. God's word makes the impossible possible. It brings light from dark, the universe from nothing, and life from death.
- 3. God's powerful word isn't frustrated by any other power even the combined might of human opposition. God's word is effective it does what he intended it to do.
- 4. When God's word in the gospel comes to humanity, it is the power to save. God's word takes his enemies and makes them dear children.
- 5. The gospel is the word of God that saves all who believe when we understand that power we will never be ashamed of it.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Think of the power revealed in the Little Boy atomic bomb. Apparently only 0.7g of the enriched uranium actually produced the 15000 tons of TNT equivalent blast that levelled much of Hiroshima. Imagine the power required to create the universe and keep it in its place!

Often power is not the arm that swings the hammer, but the word of the one who told the arm to swing. God speaks and all things come into being. God's power is in his word.

If we are convinced that God's word is powerful, we are empowered to let it loose. The word of God, and especially the gospel word, can bring life from death - do you believe it?

The power and effectiveness of God's word is why we seek to see 1000 people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible. Have you been trained to read the Bible with an unbeliever?

Have you done the Word 121 training?

(training.theword121.com.au)



Prayer

Pray 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

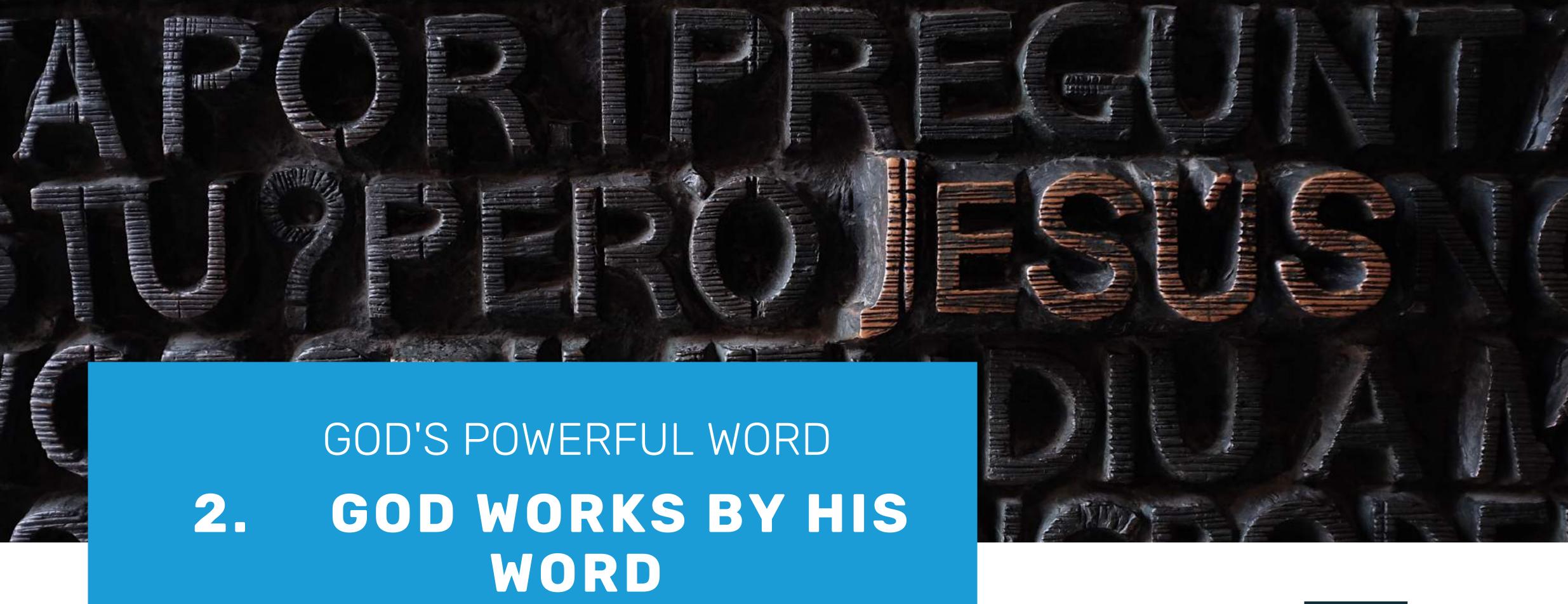
COFFEE



DINNER











How do you see God work in our world?



Big Picture

God works in the world by his powerful word



Bible Passage

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. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus:

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14

2. GOD WORKS BY HIS WORD



- 1. When Paul and his friends preached in Thessalonica, their preaching was received as the word of God not just a human word.
- 2. God's word works in the Thessalonians so that they behave like the church in Judea.
- 3. When we speak the message of the gospel of Jesus, people hear not just our weak and feeble words they hear the poweful word of God that brings the dead to life.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

In creation, God speaks and it happens. God sustains his creation by his powerful word.

God speaks and things happen. God also holds back his word that will kick off the judgment of all things (2 Peter 3:5-7). God works by his word!

Jesus calms storm, heals the sick, fed thousands, forgave sins - by his word. Jesus works by his word - he was a preacher after all!

God's powerful word that achieves all of this - is the same word that works in the gospel word we speak or share!

As we seek to share Jesus with a friend we do so because God works through our words. We're not just speaking empty words - but perhaps even the very word of God!

When we invite people to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible, we are inviting them to hear the powerful word of God - to allow God to work in their lives.

When we sit in a cafe while we read the Bible with our friend - it doesn't feel particularly powerful. How does this knowledge of how God works by his word encourage you?



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

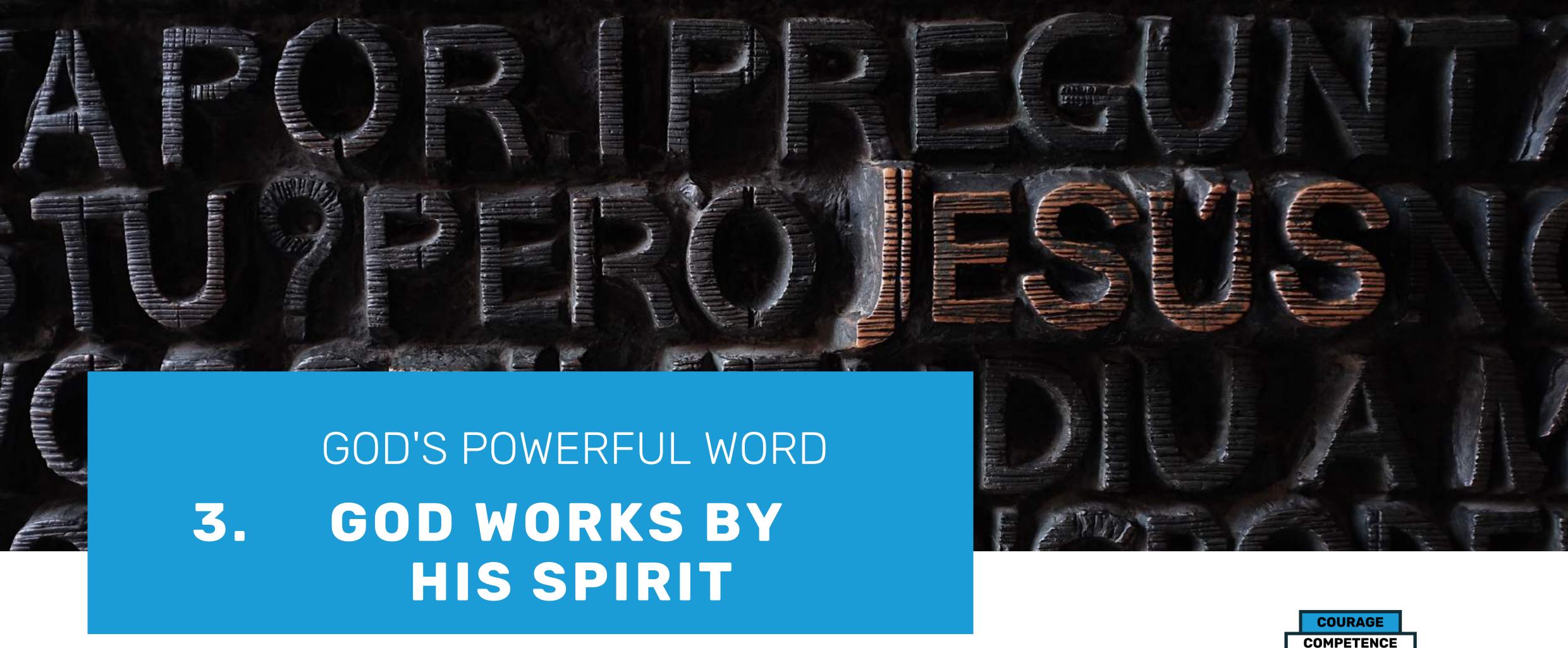
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DINNER









The Holy Spirit is the often overlooked partner as we seek to share Jesus. But he plays a vital role as people become Christians.

How have you experienced God working by his Spirit?



Big Picture

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



Bible Passage

...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— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 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. 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

CHARACTER

CONVICTION



Bible Passage (cont.)

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, God's Spirit works in and trhough us.
- 2. God works by his powerful word through his Spirit as we use his wrod to share Jesus with people.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

When you think of it, speaking is controlled breathing. As you speak, your vocal cords, throat, nose, mouth, lips, and tongue modulate your breath to make the intricate sounds that form our words. In the Greek and Hebrew in which the Bible was originally writen, the word for breath, wind, and spirit are the same word. Our words are formed by our spiriting.

Spirit and Word are closely intertwined in the Bible. It makes sense that 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).



Application (cont.)

Reading the word of God is not the same as reading the news or your social media feed.

Reading the Bible is a *spiritual* activity. The Spirit is intimately involved in the word because that's how God *speaks* to us - how he reveals himself to us; through his word by his Spirit.

Do you want to share Jesus in the power of the Spirit? The best way is to use word!

Who could you help meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible?



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 curently reading the Bible with us.

Remember

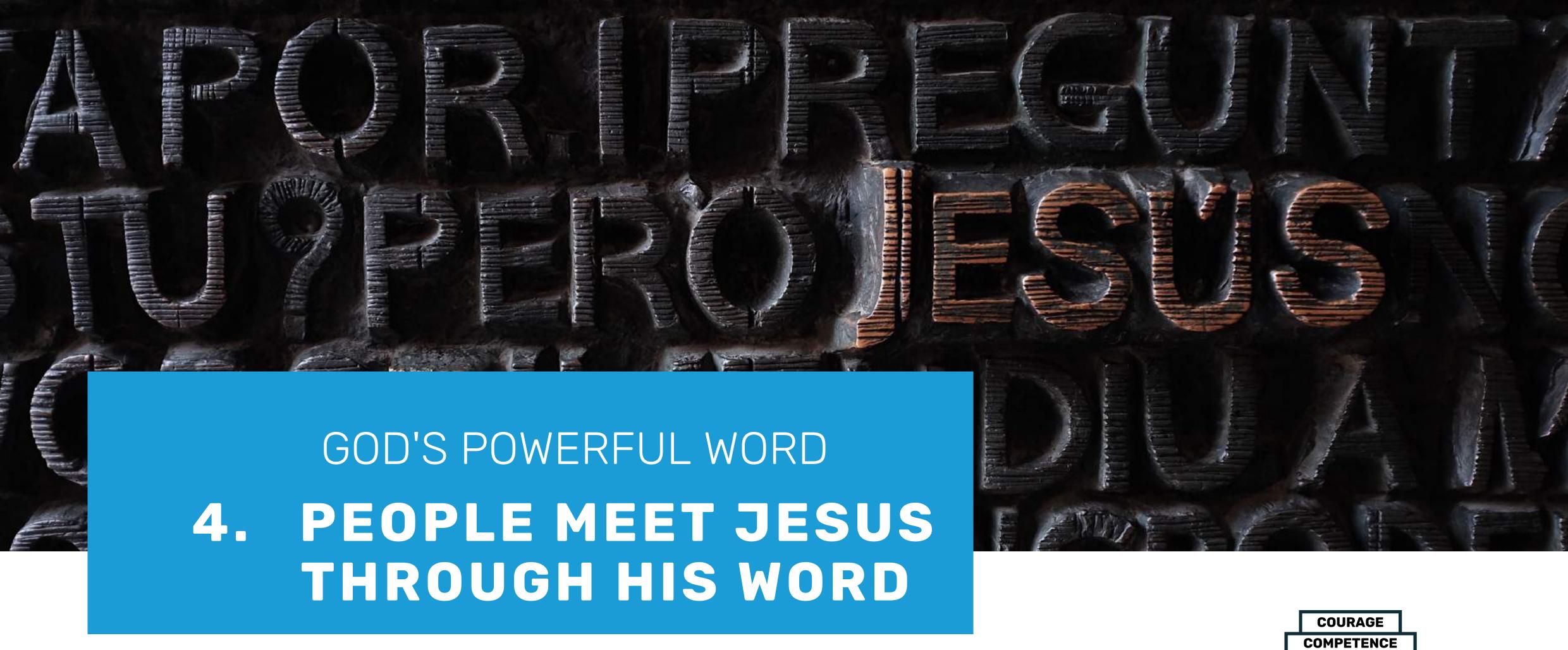
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City Bible Forum's key aim is to see 1000 people across Australia meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

CHARACTER

CONVICTION

Why this method?

Why not through some personal encounter on a mountain, or in a church?

Why not through some philosophical or theological apologetic?



Big Picture

People meet Jesus in God's word.



Bible Passage

"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. 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. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

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

John 5:24-29



Bible Passage (cont.)

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

John 5:37-40



Key Truths

- 1. Whoever hears Jesus' word and believes in the Father who sent him has eternal life.
- 2. The time has come for the dead to hear the voice of the Son of God and live.
- 3. It's time for people to hear the voice of Jesus and rise to judgment.
- 4. 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

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

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 have eternal life too.

PEOPLE MEET JESUS THROUGH HIS WORD



Prayer

Who are you praying for to invite to read through a Gospel with you?

Pray for the hundreds of enquirers currently reading through a Gospel. Ask God that they would meet Jesus.

Remember

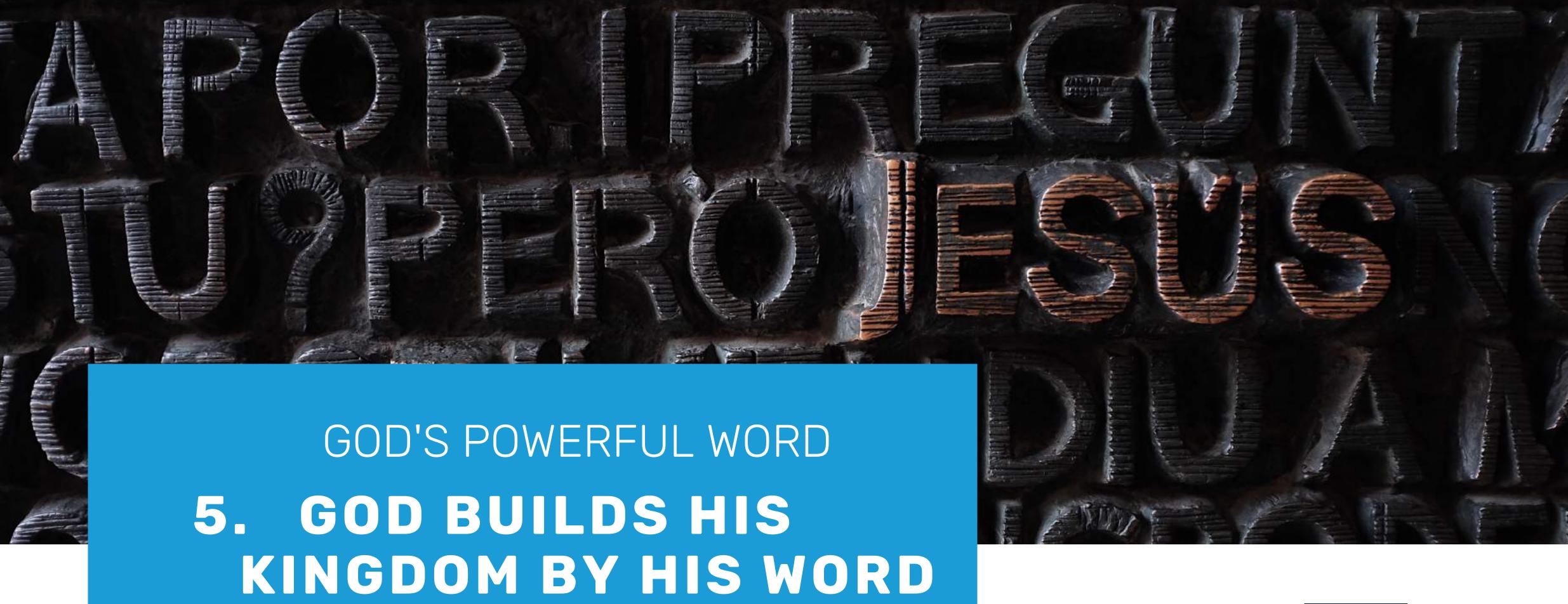
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Jesus once compared the growth of the kingdom of God to the growth of a mustard tree. It starts from a tiny mustard seed and grows into a tree big enough to support birds in its branches. That's amazing growth!

How does growth happen?



Big Picture

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



Bible Passage

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



Key Truths

- 1. God's gifts various people to the church to equip the people for works of service so they can build his church. These people are *word* gifts; 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 and are made mature (Ephesians 5:25-27).
- 3. God's word is God's way to build his church whether through evangelism or maturity.
- 4. 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 work is how God works in our world.

God's Spirit works principally through his word.

We meet Jesus through God's work, and God builds his kingdom by his word.

Ths is why we believe it is 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 across our country.

Remember

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DINNER







GOD AND OUR STUFF





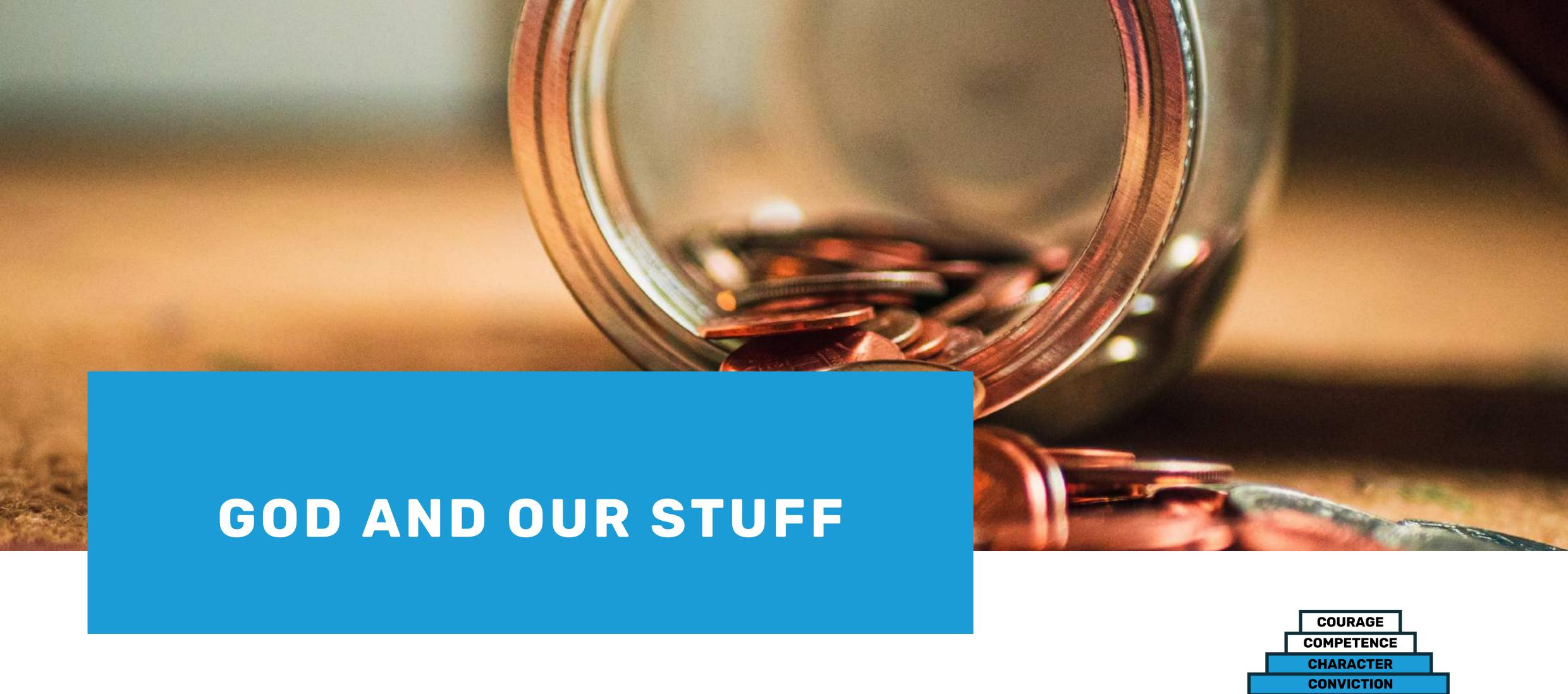




Course Summary

This study looks at our attitude to giving to God's mission.







Malcolm Turnbull once said "I don't believe my wealth... is entirely a function of hard work. Of course, hard work is important but... there are taxi drivers that work harder than I ever have and they don't have much money."

To what extent can we take credit for our success?



Big Picture

When we give to support God's mission, we're not doing him a favour, rather it's a chance for joyful worship!



Bible Passage

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else."

Acts 17:24-25

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



Key Truths

- 1. God made everything and gives to everyone impartially.
- 2. God gives life, breath, and everything. There's nothing we can give to God that he doesn't already own.
- 3. God isn't short of cash he doesn't need our service, or our giving.
- 4. When we give to ministry, we're not doing God a favour. It's a chance to worship joyfully in service of our God.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

How is God prompting your heart attitude towards giving?

City Bible Forum exists due to God's generosity expressed through his people. Our national budget is just over \$3 million. About 80% of our support comes from individual Christians who give regularly throughout the year or at our two appeals. Currently 28% of EPT members give regularly and 20% give at either the end of financial year appeal or the Christmas appeal - or both.

It takes 50 people giving regularly to support one full-time City Bible Forum staff worker. This year we are seeking 40 more regular financial supporters across Australia so that EPT staff are fully supported.

There are many great minsitry opportunities to support, however we hope involvement with your Evangelistic Prayer Team will lead you to support City Bible Forum regularly too as we continue to see God working through workers across Australia.

How will you support City Bible Forum this year?



Prayer

Pray for the financial needs of City Bible Forum - particularly as we get closer to the end of financial year appeal.

Pray about your attitude towards giving - that he will enable you to be a cheerful giver.

Remember

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WORKING INA HOSTILE AGE









Course Summary

This study looks at working in a hostile culture that has no place for God. There's much we can learn from Daniel's time in Babylon where he and his mates worked in the government of a hostile foreign nation. They faced years of hardships, with enemies trying to trip them up and ridicule God. Through it all Daniel and his friends stood up under the pressure and gave glory to God as a result.



Course Structure

1: SUCCESS IN A HOSTILE AGE

2: SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE

3: NAVIGATING POLITICAL POWERPLAYS

4: LEADERSHIP AND HUMILITY







When you think about your work, how do you expect success to come?



Big Picture

Any and all success in life comes from God.



Bible Passage

And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Daniel 1:2

Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

Daniel 1:9

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1:17

1. SUCCESS IN A HOSTILE AGE



Key Truths

- 1. In Daniel, the nation of Israel has been taken capitve in Babylon and the young Israelites are being enrolled in the Babylonian graduate indoctrination programme.
- 2. God gives all things. He gave Israel into the hands of Babylon according to his plan. (2 Chronicles 36, Ezra 5;12)
- 3. God is the giver. It is he who creates the circumstances in which we rise or fall. God makes the official look on Daniel and his mates with favour.
- 4. God gives success. Daniel and his mates have their gifts, skills and learning only because God gave it to them.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

If you believe your company gives you success then there are no *limits* to the lengths you'll go to keep your company happy with you.

Is this a fair statement?

If we grasp that God is *the* giver how should this impact how we conduct ourselves in our work when we are under pressure to conform, in a bad way, to the company?

If God gives us success, how does this affect how we act when there's an opportunity to stand up as a Christian?

God gives success and so our confidence in life rests in him and not in any success we may have. However, if our confidence is in our self-made success we are tempted no longer to recognise that God is the true giver of success.

1. SUCCESS IN A HOSTILE AGE



Pray that our confidence would come from God as the giver of success.

Pray for one another's hearts that we would acknowledge God as the source of our success in life.

Pray that you would seek God's success in your work.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER









What have you noticed people depend upon for their future security?

What influcences how you feel about the future?



Big Picture

All kingdoms will end, all powers will be overthrown, only God's kingdom will go on forever; no power can overthrow it.



Bible Passage

If you have time, read Daniel 2 for the full picture. But here's a summary:

Daniel recounts and interprets a troubling dream of King Nebuchadnezzar (on pain of dismemberment). The dream concerns a baffling statue of different materials which is destroyed by a rock which becomes a mountain that fills the earth. Daniel explains that it is about the king's reign being replaced by three other kingdoms and then...

"Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all."

Daniel 2:37-38

CONVICTION

2. SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE



Bible Passage (cont.)

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

Daniel 2:44-47



Key Truths

- 1. Any kingdom, company, or city only exists and has a future because God gives it.
- 2. God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed and will never be left to another people the kingdom of Jesus. Jesus has defeated death, is unconquerable, and will rule forever. So those under Jesus' rule have an assured and secure future.
- 3. God's kingdom under Jesus does not depend on any human power, not even ours. It isn't made by 'human hands'.
- 4. Jesus' rule and authority overcomes any and every power structure in our world. Nothing can thwart the kingdom of Jesus our future is assured!

Thoughts? Questions?

2. SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE



Application

God is the one who determines the future. But it's one thing to know it, and another to trust God in the meantime. What are the circumstances where you find it hard to trust God with your future?

God is the one who gives us ultimate security for our future. Our future rests completely in him and so we can live for him knowing our future is secure.

How does our assured future shape how we respond to people who would threaten our security or future?

How does the assured future kingdom of Jesus shape how we respond to circumstances that threaten our security or future?



Praver

Pray for a deep reliance upon God who controls our future.

Pray for each other's unbelieving friends and colleagues. What is the next step with each one?

Remember

COFFEE

DINNER

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It's easy to live under the illusion of freedom, not noticing the unseen forces that influence our actions. What we think is freedom could really be just giving in to those powers. Where do you see these unseen powers?



Big Picture

Trusting in God means resisting the powerful forces that seek to influence our actions - even in the face of death.



Bible Passage

Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Daniel 3:4-6

CHARACTER

CONVICTION

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:16-18



- 1. Our God is perfectly capable of rescuing our heroes out of Nebuchadnezzar's hands. (Spoiler alert he does!)
- 2. Our three heroes tell the king, God may choose to rescue us, or he may not, but either way we will not serve your gods. The true issue in bowing down to the golden image is the powerplay between Nebuchadnezzar's power and God's power.
- 3. Worshipping something other than God or idolatry is more subtle and complicated in our hearts than we often think. Idolatry is a powerplay for our hearts.
- 4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to buckle even in the face of potential death. Thoughts? Questions?



Application

So much of our success in the workplace seems to rise or fall on the power of leaders, managers, or colleagues. But that's not the case. God is able to rescue us from any power and any difficulty in this life.

However, in the end, you don't know if God will rescue you from corporate oblivion, from the fiery furnace of unemployment or social rejection. God calls his own shots for his own reasons but it is always for our good. Whatever the threat, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:28–39)

Often the our decision and thinking are constrained by the political, cultural, and social powers we often don't see. Our freedom isn't true freedom - we tend to act the way people around us expect us to act - for good or for bad. But if we trust God who loves us so much he didn't spare Jesus on our behalf - we can have true freedom.

Where do you feel you may be constrained by political powerplays?



Pray that we would resist the temptation to give in to the powerful forces in our day to day world.

Pray for someone who wields power in your life. Why not add them to the list of people for whom you regularly pray?

Remember

COFFEE

DINNER

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GOSPEL

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Where do leaders believe their authority comes from?

Why do you think leaders rise or fall?



Big Picture

We only have authority because God gives it to us, this should result in us leading with great humility.



Bible Passage

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

All the peoples of the earth

are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases

with the powers of heaven

and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand

or say to him: "What have you done?"

4. LEADERSHIP AND HUMILITY



Bible Passage (cont.)

At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Daniel 4:34-37



Key Truths

- 1. After being humbled and sent insane by God, and finally having his sanity restored,

 Nebuchadnezzar discovered God is the ultimate ruler 'God's dominion is an everlasting
 dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation.'
- 2. Nebuchadnezzar discovered God is free to do what he wants and no one can stop him or hinder him 'none can stay his hand'.
- 3. Nebuchadnezzar discovered that God gives power and leadership and rule. And at any moment God can take it away. The right response is to worship God.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

God has placed you in the role you are in, so lead humbly; pointing people to him and not yourself.

Are you thankful for your position at work?

How do you relate to those lower down the organisational chart to you?

Are you a humble leader? Do you think others would agree?

4. LEADERSHIP AND HUMILITY



Pray for your leadership in whatever role or form you exercise it.

Pray that the way you humbly lead as a Christian would point people to Jesus.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER





