



Glow



Discipleship Course

Term Three



Welcome to the Discipleship Course!

Every study has a short video, study notes and discussion points. Our prayer is that as we study together, we are transformed by His Word and His Spirit, strengthening our relationship with God and one another.

WEEK 1

Introduction + Father
The Father Heart of God

WEEK 2

Son
The work of Jesus on the Cross

WEEK 3

Holy Spirit
The person and power of the Holy Spirit

WEEK 4

Community Accountability
Following Jesus together

WEEK 5

Reflective Reading and Persistent Prayer
'Why' and 'how' we read the Bible and pray

WEEK 6

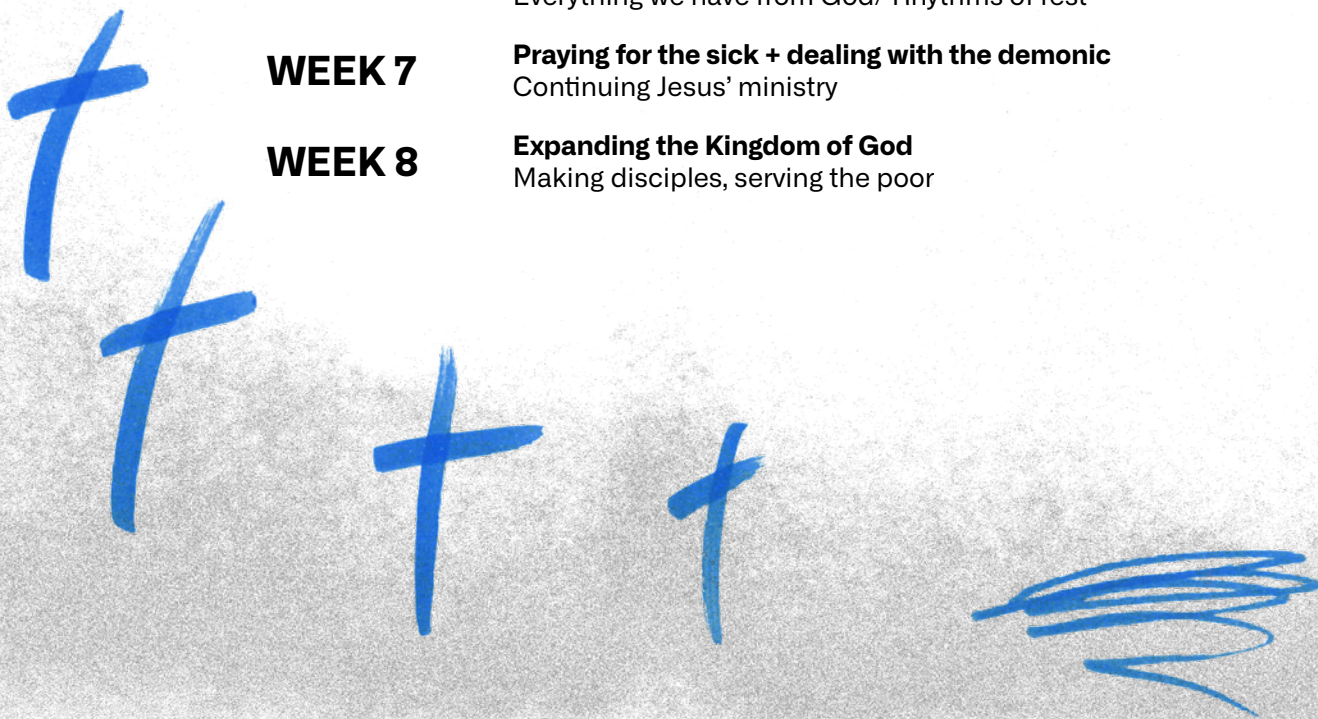
Total Stewardship and Sabbath
Everything we have from God/ Rhythms of rest

WEEK 7

Praying for the sick + dealing with the demonic
Continuing Jesus' ministry

WEEK 8

Expanding the Kingdom of God
Making disciples, serving the poor



Week 2: The Work of Jesus on the Cross



**Discipleship
Course**

The Work of Jesus on the Cross

Sometimes it is hard to change. We all have a *desire* to change but we often don't have the *power* to change. The message of Jesus is a life-changing message. It is not just the hope of change but the promise of change as we start to commit ourselves to following Him. It's through knowing God more that we become more like Him.

When we look at a sign, symbol or logo it has the ability to prompt a response in us. As soon as we look at the symbol it makes us think of something. It can sometimes initiate a desire or feeling in us simply because we see a symbol, e.g. McDonalds, Nike, Kmart.

THE CROSS is a symbol.

LET'S TALK

Q. What is your immediate thought when you think of the Cross?

For most people it would be a symbol of religion, for others, it can be a fashion symbol. Our initial response should not be downcast but one of amazement, joy, freedom and liberation. After Jesus' work on the Cross it became one of the greatest sources of joy for believers. It is something we look to and know that is where our hope lies.

The Cross wasn't just an event, it is the lens I see my whole life through. My past. My present. My future.

We need to allow the foundation of the Cross to transform our past, our present, and our future. Without this transformation, we have 'unfinished works' in our lives, but Jesus said it is, 'the finished work of the Cross.' The work of the Cross is complete.

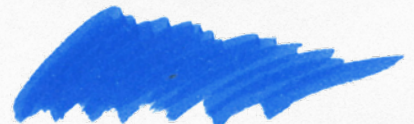
The Apostle Paul said it like this:

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 2

He resolved to know nothing else. In other words, Paul made a deliberate decision to take everything to the Cross and through the Cross. He realised the power of what the Cross did in his life and through his life. It had ramifications on Paul's past, on his present and on his future. It transformed his life.

AMEN



1. How Does the Cross Change the Way I See My Past?

Our past should not be ignored but explored. We should explore it with the lens of the Cross. Explore it with Jesus and allow Him to go back into our past; and experience the freedom it brings. We need to understand the weight of this. The Cross will never be of value to us until we realise how bad we were. The Bible says that we were all fallen. Romans tells us that there is not one righteous person. We need to realise our brokenness in order to experience the liberation the Cross brings.

The Gospel is not just good advice, the Gospel is good news! There isn't a list of to-do's to change your life. We have to recognise that the Cross is something that did happen that can change our life. When we bring our past to Jesus, we recognise that we all have a past. We all have issues. Prior to accepting Jesus, the Bible says we were at war with God. We were His enemy and we were in debt to God. We had the debt of sin.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 6: 23

The gift of the Cross is beautiful and liberating. When you think of the song Amazing Grace, the song represents how amazing God is because He saved us. 'He saves a wretch like me'. I was so broken, I was so in debt to Him, and my sin was so great, but yet His grace covered it altogether. That's why the grace of God is so amazing. When we fully understand who we are without God we can fully understand His grace towards us. Grace rescued us from the sin we were in. We were so broken, so down and out, and Jesus loved us. Jesus took a hold of our past for us.

The theological word for this is 'propitiation'. It means 'appeasing' or 'atonement'. Jesus did not just ignore our past, He actually paid for it. He took our past upon Himself.

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. 14 He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the Cross."

COLOSSIANS 2: 13-14

When we realise that our debt has been paid in full, we don't need to feel guilty about that anymore. The Bible states that Godly sorrow leads to repentance which leaves no regrets (2 Corinthians 7:10). Now we can look to our past without guilt. Once we have brought it to Jesus, He has dealt with it on our behalf. The Cross changes your past!



2. How Does the Cross Change the Way I See My Present?

The Cross reminds us that we have righteousness and security in Jesus. A lot of people in today's society are extremely insecure. It is not a new problem, it's a human problem that's always been there. The word 'righteous' by definition means to be pleasing, presentable, and without shame. This desire is within each and every one of us. Part of the human condition is a desire to be pleasing presentable and without shame before someone.

When we try to find that righteousness within ourselves or in someone else it affects our present. We can't do it with our own human effort. If we look to everyone else for validation, for acceptance and love, we are always going to feel insecure. We will always feel fear. We need to look at our present through the filter of the Cross. We need to understand it's through the Cross that we see ourselves.

When we see ourselves through the Cross, we see what's referred to as 'Imputed Righteousness'. It doesn't mean that we just need to do better. It's not about us 'doing'. Jesus says He will give us His righteousness. Jesus lived a perfect life, pleasing, presentable and without shame. He has taken our life and has given us His life. Jesus has taken our sin, our shame, our insecurity, our fear and has given us His righteousness. All the things that He has He has given to us. The great exchange! It changes the way we view ourselves. Jesus has done it for us.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 21

The world says *do the work and get love, identity and security.*
The Cross says *the work is done!*
Now *receive love, identity and security.*

The Cross changes our heart and mind to realise we are not working to receive love but working from love. We are not working to make ourselves more presentable because Jesus has already made us presentable before God our Father. Understanding this will change the way we live in our present!



3. How Does the Cross Change the Way I See My Future?

Because of the Cross we have received an unshakeable and unbreakable love.

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.”

COLOSSIANS 8: 38

We don’t know *what* the future holds but we do know *who* holds the future.

We can look to our future knowing God’s unshakeable love will always be there. That gives us a filter to now view our future through. Even though the world may shake around us, His love never will. God’s love will never change for us! It’s all proven through the work of the Cross. The Cross shows us that there is nothing that can separate us from God’s love because Jesus has made a way for us to access that love. When we view our lives through the Cross we can see our past, present and future through a new lens. The lens of the Cross.

LET’S TALK

- Q. What are some of the things Jesus covered for us on the Cross?
- Q. Is there an area of my past I need to take to the Cross?
- Q. Are you trying to *do* things to gain acceptance and security in your life?
- Q. Knowing that God’s love is unbreakable, how does this change the way you see your future?

