

DEEPER *with* God

Healing and Restoration



DEO GLORIA
Community Church Rockingham

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Introduction

While Ezekiel was in exile in Babylon, God gave him a vision of his plan to restore his people. In the vision God showed him water that trickled from out of the throne in the temple, eventually forming a stream that became wider and deeper. Ezekiel was taken into the stream where the water had become deep enough for someone to swim and wide that no one could cross. Then the man in Ezekiel's vision said the following:

Ezekiel 47:6-7

He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.

Ezekiel saw that the water brought life and growth wherever it flowed.

Ezekiel 47:9

Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish because this water flows there and makes the salt

water fresh; so, where the river flows everything will live.

Eventually, the river reached the Dead Sea, and it brought life to what was once dead. Ezekiel saw fruit trees along the once dry and dead banks of the river, trees that bear fruit all year round which brings healing and restoration. This vision symbolically reveals that God changes death to life and will bring God's life to "dead" people.

Ezekiel 47:12

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

The year's theme, Deeper with God, was planned by the leaders with Ezekiel's vision in mind.

This final Bible Study will focus on the water of God that brings life, healing, and restoration.

We pray that God will take us on a transformative journey through His Word. In a world marked by

brokenness, hardship, and uncertainty, the concept of restoration holds a special place of significance. It speaks to our deepest longings for healing, renewal, and the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. The Bible is a treasure trove of promises from God, assuring us that He desires to restore and renew not only His creation but also the lives of individuals who turn to Him in faith.

The theme of restoration appears throughout the pages of the Old and New Testaments, offering us a tapestry of divine promises and glimpses of God's redemptive work. From the story of a fallen humanity seeking restoration in the Garden of Eden to the ultimate promise of a renewed creation in the book of Revelation, the Bible tells a grand narrative of God's unfailing commitment to His people.

The promise of restoration is a living promise that extends to us today. In our lives, we may encounter brokenness in the form of shattered dreams, fractured relationships, or physical ailments. However, the promise of restoration reminds us that there is hope in God's unfailing love. Through prayer, faith, and reliance on God's grace, we can experience healing, renewal, and reconciliation.

The vision of Ezekiel is also our vision for this church and this generation. God's promise of restoration stands as an unshakable foundation of hope. It reminds us that, despite our brokenness, God's love is relentless, His grace is boundless, and His commitment to restore us is unwavering.

God's promise of restoration is a testimony of His enduring love, and it beckons us to embark on a journey of hope, healing, and wholeness.

May God bless you, heal your inner and outer being, and may He restore you to the potential He had in mind for you when He created you.

Deo Gloria!
To God all the honour!

Week 1 – God's Promise of Restoration


MEMORY VERSE - *Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Introduction to this week's study

In Luke 4:18-28 we see Jesus discussing His fulfillment of the Law in the presence of the people attending synagogue that day. People were astonished at His grace which seemed to conflict with their views of Joseph, his adoptive father. The Spirit of the Lord works across time dimensions, generations, shortcomings, obstacles, and reputations, and seeks out those who are hungry to fulfill God's word in this time. God has already sent His word to guide us along the paths of righteousness to make a difference wherever we go!

DAY 1 – God has anointed you

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:

 *Luke 4:18-19*

Observations/thoughts

If you are a Christian, then in some way God has met with you. Reflect on the moments God has spoken to you, encouraged you, and been there for you. Write down the thoughts that come to mind.

If your life were to fulfill this Scripture today at work, with friends, or with family what would your message of freedom, recovery, and favour look like? How could you share this today?

Prayer

DAY 2 – Bold and anointed

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Luke 4:18-19, Hebrews 4:14-16

Observations/thoughts

Anointing in the Bible has various meanings and uses. How and why does God want to use you?

Can you recall when you saw the anointing of God working? Is God's power still the same today? Boldly ask for His anointing upon your life today.

Prayer

DAY 3 – I can see clearly now!

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Luke 4:18-19, Acts 12:5-11 and John 9:1-12

The anointing of God has the power to set the captives free. Without any preconceived ideas, ask God to set yourself and others free today.

God's transformational power can make the blind see. Ask God to open your eyes to see and also to restore the 'vision' He has for your life. Pray for other people needing new insights.

Prayer

DAY 4 – From Oppressed to Blessed

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 40 and Exodus 1

Psalm 40:7 prophetically speaks of Jesus in the assembly fulfilling Scripture and communicating God's word. Ask God for an opportunity to share a Scripture or testimony with someone soon.

Exodus 1 paints a picture of the strength, fruitfulness, multiplication, and tenacity of God's chosen people under dire circumstances. Speak to God about becoming more like this Biblical example of stature.

Prayer

DAY 5 – Speak life

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Luke 4:19

Yes, Scriptures should not be taken out of context, but God's promises should guide us constantly. If God were to anoint your or someone else's year, what would it look like? Ask for this.

It's been said that it takes 17 positive affirmations to wipe away a negative comment. Have you been proclaiming God's favour over your life, and others lately? If not, why?

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Luke 4:18-19 and Acts 3:6-12*

Discussion questions

If your life were to fulfill Luke 4:18-19 this week at work, with friends, or with family what would your message of freedom, recovery, and favour look like?

Testify about how you have helped others see, or walk, or believe, or become more free. How did this come about?

Discuss the anointing in your life and how you are using it. Has it dwindled a bit or are you functioning in it effectively?

Have you passed on your anointing to others? How can this be used in your family, work, or church?

Close in prayer

Week 2 – Bless the Lord o my Soul

MEMORY VERSE – *Psalm 103:2-5 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Introduction to this week's study

In these verses, David begins to list some of the Lord's benefits for which He is worthy of praise. The first is forgiveness of all iniquity. The Hebrew word translated as "iniquity" identifies something twisted and distorted. Lust, including lust for power or wealth, tries to convince us that sin is desirable, with a corrupted, warped perspective.

David also praises the Lord for healing. Some illness comes by nature and God sometimes heals those. Sometimes sinning brings physical and emotional "sickness." Sometimes, when the Lord forgives sin, He heals the sickness.

DAY 1 – The God Who Heals and Restores

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 103:1-5

Observations/thoughts

What are the specific blessings and benefits that David attributes to God? How do these blessings relate to the theme of healing and restoration?

Reflect on a personal experience when you felt God's healing touch or experienced His restoration in your life. How did it impact your faith and relationship with God?

Prayer

DAY 2 – God's Compassion and Forgiveness

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 103:6-12

Observations/thoughts

According to Psalm 103:6-12, what attributes of God's character are emphasized? How do these attributes contribute to the theme of healing and restoration?

How does understanding God's forgiveness and compassion motivate us to seek His healing and restoration in our lives? In what ways can we extend these qualities to others?

Prayer

DAY 3 - The Renewed Youth of the Believer

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 103:13-18

Observations/thoughts

In Psalm 103:13-18, David speaks of God's compassion toward His children and the renewal of their youth. How can this renewal be seen as a form of healing and restoration in your life?

Think of a time when God's compassion and renewal have brought healing and restoration to your spiritual vitality and outlook on life. Praise Him for that.

Prayer

DAY 4 – God's Healing and Restoration in Sickness

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 103:19-22

Observations/thoughts

In Psalm 103:19-22, how does David describe God's sovereignty and rule over all creation? How does this relate to the theme of healing and restoration?

Reflect on a time you experienced where you or someone you know experienced God's healing during a time of illness. How did this encounter strengthen your faith and understanding of God's care?

Prayer

DAY 5 – Reflecting on God's Healing and Restoration

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 103:1-22

Observations/thoughts

After studying Psalm 103, what aspects of God's character related to healing and restoration stand out to you the most? How will you apply these insights in your daily life?

Think of practical ways you seek God's healing and restoration in your community and extend His compassion to those in need.

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Psalm 103*

Discussion questions

In Psalm 103:3, David mentions that God "forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." How do forgiveness and physical healing relate to the theme of restoration, and what does this reveal about God's character?

Psalm 103:10 talks about God's mercy not treating us as our sins deserve. How does God's mercy play a role in our journey of healing and restoration? How can we extend this mercy to others?

Psalm 103:11-13 highlights God's compassion and love. How does understanding these attributes of God impact our approach to seeking healing and restoration in times of difficulty or brokenness?

Psalm 103:17 mentions God's love and compassion being "from everlasting to everlasting." How does the eternal nature of God's love impact our perspective on healing and restoration, especially during challenging times?

Close in prayer

Week 3 - Spiritual Healing



MEMORY VERSE – *Psalm 51:10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

Introduction to this week's study

David, the greatest of Israel's kings, fell into serious sin and recognized his need to plead with God for forgiveness. This confession was inspired by David's sins of adultery, deception, and even murder in his relationship with Bathsheba.

In Psalm 51, David confesses his sins to God, holding back nothing. David does not blame anyone for his errors and does not attempt to excuse his actions. These words display absolute humility and anguish over sin. David appeals to God's mercy and love, knowing that he can be forgiven. David pleads that God will create in him a clean spirit, a spirit that will be right with God.

DAY 1 - Recognizing the Need for Spiritual Restoration

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:

 *Psalm 51:1-6*

Observations/thoughts

Reflect on verses 3-4 of Psalm 51. How does David describe the weight of sin, and what does he recognize about God's justice and mercy? How can this understanding lead to spiritual restoration?

In verse 6, David speaks of God's desire for truth in the inward being. What does this mean, and how does it relate to the process of spiritual restoration?

Prayer

DAY 2 – The Pathway to Spiritual Restoration

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 51:7-12

Observations/thoughts

In verse 7, David asks for purification with hyssop, a ceremonial cleansing herb. How can we understand the concept of purification in the context of spiritual restoration, and what role does God play in this process?

David prays for God not to take His Holy Spirit from him in verse 11. What does this teach us about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our journey of spiritual restoration?

Prayer

DAY 3 – Repentance and Forgiveness

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 51:13-17

Observations/thoughts

In verse 13, David expresses his commitment to teach transgressors God's ways. How can our own experiences of spiritual restoration equip us to help others in their journey of repentance and restoration?

In verse 15, David speaks of singing aloud of God's righteousness. How can worship and praise be part of the process of spiritual restoration?

Prayer

DAY 4 - The Impact of Restoration

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 51:18-19

Observations/thoughts

What effect (physically, emotionally, and spiritually) did David's guilt have on him? What do you consider a broken and contrite heart to be? What do you learn about the impact of sin in your life?

Reflect on verse 19. What does it mean for God not to despise a broken and contrite heart? How does God's response to a repentant heart encourage us in our journey of spiritual restoration?

Prayer

DAY 5 - Walking in Restoration

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Psalm 51:1-19 and 1 John 1:9

How can we apply the principles of Psalm 51 to our lives and actively participate in the process of spiritual restoration? What specific actions or attitudes can lead to ongoing spiritual renewal and transformation?

Using David's prayer as a model (Psalm 51), write your own prayer for forgiveness.

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Psalm 51:1-19 and 1 John 1:9*

Discussion questions

Psalm 51:10-12 speaks of creating a clean heart, renewing the spirit, and restoring joy. How do these verses describe the results of spiritual restoration? Have you experienced or witnessed these transformations in your life or in the life of others?

Psalm 51:17 speaks of a broken and contrite heart being pleasing to God. What does it mean to have a broken and contrite heart, and how does it lead to spiritual restoration? Share examples of humility leading to restoration.

How does the idea of having “a broken and contrite heart” connect with the idea that true worship involves both an internal heart condition and external actions? What can we learn about the relationship between inner transformation and outward expressions of worship?

In Psalm 51, David acknowledges his sin and pleads for God's mercy and cleansing. Have you ever experienced a moment of realization about the need for spiritual restoration in your own life? Share that experience with the group.

Close in prayer

Week 4 – Transforming your Mind

MEMORY VERSE – *Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the patterns of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and approve God's will -His good, pleasing, and perfect will.*

Introduction to this week's study

Scientists do tests and experiments on the elements of the periodic table using processes over time. The results of these tests have proven very useful to mankind because they produce outcomes that can make our lives better. All of these results were waiting to be discovered as creation longs to reveal the perfect promises and blessings God stored for mankind. Ultimately, the old world and way of doing things will be consumed by fire to produce a new heaven and earth revealing God's ultimate good, pleasing and perfect will. Let's align ourselves with Him this week.

According to the Bible, we have a responsibility to transform our minds to move in God's will. Note that this takes place after salvation and is an open invitation to mature. The rest of Romans 12 goes on to encourage us to develop what God started in us by taking action. Critically, this is all up to us to do, not God. He has given us gifts and talents and we need to develop them to say that we are truly transformed in God's presence.

The great reset is taking place and people have been forced to re-evaluate their lives after the COVID pandemic. Unfreeze from the patterns of hopelessness in the world and develop a renewed lifestyle according to godly standards. Get rid of all previous limitations of a life that has not tested and approved the promises of God. Serve with passion, lead with power, speak with vision, communicate with purpose, connect empathetically with people, do your work with zeal –and do this all as you cheer people towards heaven. (adapted from Romans 12)

DAY 1 – Migrate mentally

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 10:14, and John 13:1-17

Observations/thoughts

Many people still long for the ‘good old days’ of the past and function from a position of loss. What are the best things that you can think of in your current situation? How are you going to get these for yourself or others?

Our walk can sometimes make our feet dirty. What challenges and hurts in your life do you need to put on the cross?

Prayer

DAY 2 – Ready ... Action!

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Peter 1:13-16, James 2 and Romans 8:28

Observations/thoughts

Imagine a movie director who never said ‘action’ and was always just getting his crew ready. What areas in your day do you need to shift into action mode?

James 2 encourages us to fulfill the whole law and not be partial, particularly to people, but also to His law. Romans 8:28 encourages us to link all things together to release God’s blessings. What areas in your life/work/family have you been neglecting?

Prayer

DAY 3 – Higher and higher

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Isaiah 55:1-9 and Romans 12:1-2

Observations/thoughts

Isaiah's verses progress from a state of need and infancy into a state of maturity whereby all the reader's senses become engaged with God. What thoughts and ways need to be given over to God's higher thoughts and higher ways?

With this renewed mind, imagine what God would want you to do with these heavenly thoughts to reach out to others today. How would that look?

Prayer

DAY 4 – Become a provider

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Isaiah 55:10-13 and Matthew 14:13-21

Observations/thoughts

The scale of the impact of God's word is revealed in the above Scriptures. Spend time with God meditating on how He has called you to serve Him by being of service to others today. What is He showing you?

What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus expecting them to feed others with their limitations? Ask God to reveal to you how the above Scriptures can be a supernatural source to provide for yourselves and others.

Prayer

DAY 5 – Overcoming the desert

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Matthew 4:1-11 and Isaiah 55:10-13

Observations/thoughts

Jesus was tempted by the devil to resort to worldly/carnal conditions of living. How did the Word of God sustain Him and how can it sustain you?

Isaiah speaks of climate change. The believer's world changes according to the measure of faith they activate in obedience. Ask your loving heavenly Father to transform you internally so that wherever you walk, heaven begins to manifest. What would this look like for you?

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 10:14, 1 Peter 1:13-16, Matthew 14:13-21 and Isaiah 55:10-13*

Discussion questions

In what ways do you find yourself reminiscing the past? Although it's good to retain happy thoughts and be grateful, these can restrict us at times. Discuss.

Prosperity teaching and self-flagellation have been two extremes in the history of Christian churches. According to Romans 8:28, how are these concepts to be understood?

Connect groups can sometimes fall into the rut of sharing what others ought to do or what the Bible tells people to do in general. What in your life has changed by obeying God to supernaturally provide for others?

In what areas are you needing transformation? Discuss with the group. Write down what God is showing you.

Close in prayer

Week 5 – The Transforming Power of Love

MEMORY VERSE - *1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Introduction to this week's study

God is love, His book; the Bible is the book of love. God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ out of love for us. His love for you transforms you from sinner to child of God. This message of love is powerful, and He calls us into a love relationship with Him, we love Him, who loved us first.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow His example of love and love for others. In this week's study, we ask God to refresh us and help us to love more like Him.

DAY 1 – Love’s Importance

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Corinthians 13

Observations/thoughts

How does Paul describe the importance of love in the opening verses of the chapter?

According to verses 1-3, what does it mean to have the gifts of tongues, prophecy, and knowledge, to give or even to suffer for Christ, without love?

Prayer

DAY 2 – What is true love?

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Observations/thoughts

List the characteristics of love.

List the characteristics in your life in order of most prominent to least prominent.

Prayer

DAY 3 – Love never fails!

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Observations/thoughts

Why does Paul say, “love never fails”?

In what ways does Paul contrast love with other spiritual gifts and actions in verses 1-3 and 8-13? What are the things that Paul says will stop and/or even fail?

Prayer

DAY 4 – Practical love

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Corinthians 13

Observations/thoughts

How does this chapter challenge your understanding of love and its importance in your faith and interactions with others?

How can you apply the principles of love described in this chapter to your daily life and relationships?

Prayer

DAY 5 - Faith, Love and Hope

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



1 Corinthians 13:13

Observations/thoughts

List and describe the 3 things that after all is said and done, Paul says are important.

Why is LOVE most important in the Bible, your life, in the church, and in this world?

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *1 Corinthians 13, 1 Peter 4:8, Galatians 5:22 and John 13:35*

Discussion questions

Why is LOVE most important in the Bible, your life, in the church, and in this world?

What does true love look like when the church gathers;
on a Sunday,
as a small group,
together in the world?

Discuss the following statement: *"It is impossible to love someone without knowing them!"*

In what ways can you get to know fellow believers on a Sunday, in your small group, in your sphere of life, so that you are able to love?

Ask God who in the church whom you don't know, should you get to know, and ask Him to open your eyes to ways to serve them with love.

Close in prayer

Week 6 – God’s Plan for Transformation

MEMORY VERSE - *Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Introduction to this week’s study

The Bible teaches us that as believers in this world, we are God’s children, ambassadors, the salt and light of this earth and so we are called to be “ambassadors of change”. We have a God-given purpose to make a difference in this world through the power of the gospel and live lives that attract people to Christ. Through God’s grace, we bring transformation to the communities, we live in. In this week’s study, we will learn key lessons from Israel’s calling to transform the city they lived in while in exile.

DAY 1 – We need transformation

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Jeremiah 29:1-14 and 1 Peter 2:11

Observations/thoughts

Read verses 1-3, 14 and Jeremiah 25:1-11, why was Israel in Exile?

List the ways Israel was to transform the world they lived in rather than be influenced by the world around them. How is the world influencing us?

Prayer

DAY 2 – Transforming Community

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Jeremiah 29:4-7 and Genesis 1:27-28

Observations/thoughts

List the ways Israel was to transform the world they lived in rather than be influenced by the world around them.

What does the command to "*build houses and settle down and have families*" in verse 5 tell us of our purpose as Christians in this world?

Prayer

DAY 3 – A transformed city!

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Jeremiah 29:7

Observations/thoughts

What does it mean to "*seek the peace and prosperity of the city*" as instructed in verse 7? How does this align with God's plan for His people?

In what practical ways are you able to "*seek the peace and prosperity of this land?*"

Prayer

DAY 4 – Praying for Transformation

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Why is it so important to pray for the city and community we live in?

List people who live in your neighbourhood, colleagues who you work with, and friends who you interact with. How can you bless them in prayer?

Prayer

Think of the word BLESS to remember five important ways to pray for your neighbours:

- B** *Body—health, protection, strength*
- L** *Labour—work, income, security*
- E** *Emotional — joy, peace, hope*
- S** *Social—love, marriage, family, friends*
- S** *Spiritual—salvation, faith, grace*

DAY 5 - The Purpose of Blessing Our Community

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Jeremiah 29:13-14, 1 Peter 2:12 and James 4:8

Observations/thoughts

What plan did God have for Israel, and what did it include?

Read 1 Peter 2:12, James 4:8 what plan does God have for our blessing upon the city?

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Jeremiah 29:1-14 and 1 Peter 2:11-17*

Discussion questions

Jeremiah 29:5-7 contains instructions for the exiles in Babylon, including building houses, planting gardens, taking spouses, and seeking the welfare of the city. How do these instructions reflect God's plan for the exiles in a foreign land? What might they signify for us today in our daily lives?

Jeremiah 29:10-11 contains the well-known promise, "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" How does this promise provide comfort and hope to the exiles, and how can it be applied to our lives today?

Jeremiah 29:12-13. What does it mean to seek God with all your heart? How have you experienced God when seeking Him wholeheartedly?

How can the teachings in 1 Peter 2:11-17 be applied to our lives today, particularly in our interactions with non-believers, our engagement with government and authority, and our overall conduct as Christians in our society?

Close in prayer

Week 7 – A Transformed Community

MEMORY VERSE - *Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.*

Introduction to this week's study

When the Holy Spirit was poured out, the early church was established, the believers became the household of God, the body of believers and they were devoted to God and to one another, this I call, "the life of the church" or "family life." A loving family consists of a devotion to the dynamics of family and to one another. In this week's study begin by asking yourself how committed I am to my "church family" and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you throughout your time with Jesus this week

DAY 1 – A Transformed Community – is Devoted

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 2:42-47

Observations/thoughts

What does the word devotion mean to you, use your definition, and determine what are you really devoted to in life.

As with the early church, what things should we be devoted to?

Prayer

DAY 2 – A devoted learning community

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 2:24 and Matthew 28:20

Observations/thoughts

What role do leaders fulfill in the church regarding discipleship and why is it important to be a devoted learner?

What might this devotion to teaching imply about their commitment to understanding and spreading the message of Jesus?

Prayer

DAY 3 – A transformed community – deep relationships

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 2:42, Genesis 5:22-24 and Acts 20:7

Observations/thoughts

What does fellowship mean, and why is it important in today's church?

What are ways in which you can commit to deeper fellowship with other church members?

Prayer

DAY 4 – A transformed community- devoted to prayer

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 1:13-14, Ephesians 6:18, and Acts 12:5

Observations/thoughts

What is the significance of prayer in the life of the Christian community?

How does prayer contribute to their sense of unity and purpose?

Prayer

DAY 5 - Community in Practice

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts, and apply the truths to your life:



Acts 2:47

What qualities and actions of the early church might have contributed to their favourable reputation in the community?

Review this study and reflect on the following question: In what ways are you devoted to the church?

Prayer



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Prayer



Read: *Acts 2:42-47*

Discussion questions

List and discuss the main dynamics of church life.

What is the role of the apostles, the role of the church, and the role of God in this passage?

Read Acts 2:42. What does deep fellowship look like? What does this suggest about the nature of their gatherings and their relationships with one another? Why is it important that people feel welcome, and accepted in the church? What can we do to ensure that fellowship is taking place?

Read Acts 2:44-45. What do you think motivated them to live like this? Share with one another how the body of Christ has cared for you in practical ways.

Discuss practical ways how we can be devoted to being a community of believers from the example of the early church, please send suggestions to the leaders of the church.

Close in prayer



DEO GLORIA



Glory to God -
Making God's glory known

COMMUNITY



Creating community -
Serving the community

CHURCH



A loving family of God
in Rockingham

WORD-BASED



The Bible is the
foundation of truth

CHRIST-CENTRED



Jesus is the centre
of our faith

SPIRIT INSPIRED



God's Spirit inspires us
to live and proclaim
His truth

DISCIPLE-MAKING



Journeyming together,
following Jesus in obedience