

Where is your
Treasure?



Week 1: Vision Sunday

1. Why do you think people are prone to trust material possessions or human ingenuity rather than God?
2. What do you think are heavenly treasures? What might they look like? Do you think we can experience heavenly treasures on this side of eternity?
3. Read Matthew 6:19–24. In light of Jesus' teaching, is it wrong to have a retirement portfolio or care about material things? Why/why not?
4. How are we to discern the line between appropriate and inappropriate attention to accumulating resources?
5. On Sunday, Mitch mentioned how “treasure transforms.” How has your pursuit of either earthly or heavenly treasure transformed you? What are the positives and negatives that you have seen in your life?
6. The Centre's purpose is to make Jesus the centre through play, prayer and presence. Our goal for 2024 is 24 baptisms. In what ways can you contribute to helping us reach this goal? What “heavenly investments” could you or your small group contribute to achieving our goal?

Personal Reflection

- Do you stocktake on your life? What things do you spend your time pursuing? How does this reflect the location of your treasure? What steps do you need to take to invest in the right treasure?

Week 2: Expect great things. Attempt great things.

1. William Carey's infamous Deathless Sermon was preached on 30 May 1792, where he implored the apathetic church culture of the era to engage in missionary work. Based on Isaiah 54:2–3, Carey made two points: (1) "Expect great things. (2) Attempt great things." What does it look like to live expectantly but be willing to attempt great things?
2. Read Isaiah 54:2–3. Why do you think Carey selected these verses instead of the traditional missionary passages such as Matthew 28:16–20 or Acts 1:8? (Hint: see Mark 4:30–32).
3. What comes to mind when you imagine spreading a tent and living in desolate cities? How might spreading the "tent" look in the context of The Centre?
4. Read Ephesians 3:20. When have you experienced God providing more abundantly than you asked?
5. What do you think is the balance between expecting abundance and not having unrealistic expectations of God?
6. Read Matthew 25:14–30. How does the Parable of the Tenants challenge us to be good stewards of our God-given gifts?
7. How can you use your talents to contribute to building the kingdom? What are some steps to ensure that you invest your 'talents' in a way that honours God?

Week 3: Real Treasure: Loving God and Neighbour

Read Matthew 22:34–40 (For the original context, see Deuteronomy 6:4–6 and Leviticus 19:18).

1. How do you define biblical love? How is biblical love different from modern or romantic “love”?
2. Why is it essential for humans to love God first? How do we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind? What does this look like practically?
3. Theologian Miroslav Volf argues that human flourishing can only occur when we obey the Greatest Commandment. He says, “We lead our lives well when we love God with our whole being and when we love neighbours as we properly love ourselves.” Can you love your neighbour without loving God? Why/why not?
4. How does the Greatest Commandment incorporate all of the Law and the Prophets? Can you think of an example from the bible?
5. Read 1 John 4:20–21. According to John, why are we compelled to love our neighbours? What are the consequences of failing to love our neighbour?
6. Why do you think John is critical in condemning those who hate their neighbour?
7. What actions can you take to love God? What actions can you take to show the love of God to your neighbours?

Personal Reflection

- Do you have an unresolved issues with a neighbour? What steps must you take to forgive a neighbour or ask forgiveness from your neighbour? You could start by writing a letter to the person asking for their forgiveness or outlying they have hurt you.

Week 4: Where are you casting your net?

Read Luke 5:1-11

1. Can you name a time when God challenged you to “cast your net”? What happened when you stepped out in faith? How has your “net casting” moment helped shape your spiritual walk?
2. What things hold you back from living a “net casting” faith if you have never done it?
3. Evangelist George Müller said, “We must thank God for the empty purse, for it gives Him the opportunity to fill it.” Why do you think Jesus approached Peter when his nets were completely emptied? Why does God approach us when our nets are empty?
4. Why do you think Jesus filled Peter’s net so abundantly? Do you think Jesus always wants to “fill our nets”? Should we expect Jesus to be constantly filling our nets? Why/not?
5. Why do you think Peter reacted in fear after witnessing the miracle?
6. Ezekiel 47 describes the restoration creation through a river flowing from the new temple. Read Ezekiel 47:7-12. What similarities do you notice between Luke 5:1-11 and Ezekiel 47:7-12?
7. How do these two chapters point to the church’s role in bringing God’s healing and abundance? How should these passages shape our approach to sharing the gospel?
8. Jon Berquist argues that as disciples, we are “nets used by Jesus to do God’s work.” What role do you think you and your small group have in helping “gather fish in the nets”?

Personal Reflection

- Spend time praying for where God wants you to be, net casting, and allow him the space to fill your empty nets.

Week 5: How do you use your treasure?

1. How can we give thanks for God's provision even when we are living in uncertain times?
2. Read Romans 8:32. What example did God give regarding his generosity? How does this verse set the theological framework for us to be generous with our treasures?
3. Read Acts 20:32–35. What do you think Jesus meant by, "It is more blessed to give than receive?" Why do you think generosity is important in a Christian community?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2. What lessons can we learn regarding our giving? Do you think Paul's instructions are relevant in the modern era of the church? Why/why not?
5. Read Matthew 6:25–34. If God really controls the universe, why do we worry so much about so many things? How does worry affect you emotionally, physically, and spiritually?
6. Do you think Jesus is teaching that it is sinful to be worried about food and clothing? Why/why not?
7. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God? How is this a cure for anxiety and worry?
8. We can show generosity in all areas of our lives: time, talent, and finances. What are some things you could do to change how generous you can be?

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Small Group
Studies Part II

Week 6: You are what you eat

1. What was the best meal that you have ever eaten? What made that meal so memorable?
2. It has been argued that "Jesus ate his way through the Gospels." What does this teach about God's intention for our relationship with him and others?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3. What do you think "living on every word of the mouth of God" means? How would this look in our modern context when God no longer feeds his people with manna?
4. Read Psalm 34:8-10. What does "taste and see" that the Lord is good mean? Reflect on a time when you experienced God's goodness. What happened in that moment?
5. Read John 6:53-57. In what areas does your soul feel hungry and thirsty? How does Jesus satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst?
6. Deuteronomy 8 highlights God's miraculous provision in the wilderness. How have you pursued God in the seasons when we are not receiving an extravagant blessing?
7. Read Matthew 5:6. How do you define righteousness? What do you think hungering and thirsting for righteousness looks like?

Personal Reflection

- What changes do you need to make to help you pursue righteousness more?

Week 7: You are what you wear

Read Ephesians 6:10–20

1. What has been your experience of spiritual warfare? How has your experience impacted the way you approach challenging situations?
2. How can we balance the tension of not seeing a demon under every rock but not falling into the trap of thinking Satan is not active?
3. How do we put on our spiritual armour? What do you think is the role of each piece of spiritual armour? How can we use each part of the armour amid the challenges we experience?
4. Which piece of spiritual armour do you feel is easiest to “put on”? Which of the pieces do you struggle to utilise?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. Despite Jesus' defeat of sin and evil on the cross, we still struggle with sin. How do these passages portray another approach to spiritual warfare? What are some practical insights we can apply in our daily lives?
6. Roman legions were considered virtually invincible as long as they stood together and did not break ranks. How can we adopt the principles of Roman warfare and apply them to spiritual warfare?
7. If we are in a spiritual battle, how should it affect our prayer life? How can your small group stand together in battle and engage in spiritual warfare?

Week 8: Baptism: Dying to Live

Read Romans 5:18–6:14.

1. Describe your life before and after Christ. What have been some of the biggest changes in how you live?
2. What images come to mind when you think of baptism? Why do you think Jesus commanded baptism as a practice of discipleship?
3. If you have been baptised, what were the reasons behind your decision to be baptised? If you have not been baptised, what are the reasons you have not made the decision?
4. What do you think it means to be “under grace”? Why is grace not a license to sin?
5. How is baptism a sign of our participation in Christ’s death and resurrection?
6. How does baptism point to a transfer of ownership from sin to God? Have you ever used the analogy of slavery in your Christian experience? How does being a slave of God change your perception of how you should be living?
7. What steps can you take to offer parts of your body to God as instruments of righteousness?

Personal Reflection

- What steps must you take to help overcome the recurring sins in your life? What do you need to pray for, and who can you be accountable to?

Week 9: Easter

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–58.

1. According to the Apostle Paul, why is Jesus' resurrection and our future resurrection core to the Christian faith?
 2. If Jesus did not physically rise from the dead, what would change about our faith? Why would this be so detrimental?
 3. Theologian NT Wright argues, "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven." Based on 1 Corinthians 15, do you agree with Wright's statement or not?
 4. 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 describes Christ as the first fruits of the dead. What do you think Paul means by this expression? What does it mean for our resurrection?
 5. In 1 Corinthians 15:26, Paul describes death as the final enemy. Why do you think Paul describes death as the last enemy to be destroyed? Do you think of death as the enemy against God's purposes?
 6. How does 1 Corinthians 15:35–54 describe the resurrection body? How do these verses challenge or affirm your understanding of eternity?
 7. In light of the promised resurrection, how should we live our lives today? How does the resurrection help you deal with your current trials?
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Week 10: Practice Resurrection

1. "Practice Resurrection" comes from Wendell Berry's poem "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" and was adapted by Eugene Petersen into the title of his book "Practice Resurrection". How would you define "Practice Resurrection"?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3–9. How is the idea of "Practice Resurrection" evident in these passages?
3. How would you define the 'living hope' and "inheritance" Peter speaks about?
4. How can you incorporate the "living hope" and "inheritance" into your life?
5. Why is it important for Christians to undergo grief and trials?
6. Do you respond to the trials in your life with rejoicing? Do you think this means we cannot be upset or angry when things are difficult?
7. Read 1 Peter 2:19–25. How can we follow in Jesus' steps when encountering unjust suffering? How does this "Practice Resurrection"?
8. How can we resolve the tension between Peter's teachings about Christ's response and dealing with conflict and injustice?