

PART 2

You are having coffee with a friend and they initiate a conversation about faith and ask you what do you believe? How confident do you feel in answering that question?

You talk about what it means and looks like in your life to be a follower of Jesus, how a relationship with God makes a difference in your life, you talk about how God loves you and gives you peace and comfort. Your friend listens and then asks, 'But what do you believe about God and Jesus? I get peace, love and comfort from other people and places in my life, why do I need Jesus?'. What do you say next? How confident do you feel in that situation?

I think that if we are honest we don't have a lot of confidence in ourselves in this area. It's not that we don't believe but unless we are in the habit of sharing our faith regularly then we easily forget the foundations upon which our faith is built up. As time goes by we rightly focus on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and how we love God and bring glory to him with our whole lives, but we don't often return to where it started. What do we believe?

So over the course of this term we will encourage one another as we build our knowledge of key Bible passages, and our confidence in knowing what the gospel is and how we can share it with others. We are hoping that by the end of the series we will have been encouraged both to grapple with the fundamentals of our faith and to remind ourselves of the great truths we have to share with the world around us.

Each week there is a key verse, these verses are great memory verses to try and recall so we can ground our faith in scripture. It might be a bit old fashioned these days but we would do well to try and commit these to memory.

Overleaf is an overview of what we will be looking at up until Advent.

OVERVIEW OF SERIES

Part 1: 7th September - 19th October

Part 2: 26th October - 23rd November

Sunday, Sept 7, 2025	The Way	John 14:6
Sunday, Sept 14, 2025	Designed for Success	Genesis 1:27
Sunday, Sept 21, 2025	The Meaning of Life	Ecclesiastes 3:11
Sunday, Sept 28, 2025	Broken & Restored	Romans 3:23-24
Sunday, Oct 5, 2025	God is Love	John 3:16
Sunday, Oct 12, 2025	Blessed to be a Blessing (Harvest)	2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Sunday, Oct 19, 2025	The Cross	1 Peter 2:24
Sunday, Oct 26, 2025	Fullness of Life	John 10:10
Sunday, Nov 2, 2025	Belonging & Purpose	1 Peter 2:9-10
Sunday, Nov 9, 2025	Identity	1 John 3:1
Sunday, Nov 16, 2025	The Hope of Heaven	Revelation 21:1-5
Sunday, Nov 23, 2025	Becoming a Christian	Romans 10:9

Fullness of Life

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

INTRODUCTION

This week our sermon series takes a slightly different direction. The aims and hopes are still the same, that we would feel more confident in what the Gospel is, so that we may enjoy and be excited by what Jesus has done for us and that we will feel better equipped to talking about it when the opportunity arises. Up to now we have looked at the mechanics of the Gospel, who we are as humans made in the image of God, sin, the cross... but now we will spend a few weeks focusing more on the difference that makes. Again, there are so many more things that we could cover but here are just a few for us to think about.

This week we are looking into how being a follower of Jesus gives us fullness of life, what Jesus meant by that, and it looks like in our lives?

What's one simple thing that makes you feel fully alive, something that brings joy, peace, or purpose?

READ

Read John 10:1-16

- 1. How might friends interpret the meaning of a 'life to the full'? What do you think that having life to the full looks like or would be understood as?
- 2. In the context of the passage you have read, what do you think Jesus means by the term 'life to the full'? How does the image of a shepherd who knows his sheep and they know his voice add to our understanding?
- 3. In what ways do you experience this now and where do you long for more?
- 4. Jesus talks about thieves and robbers and the wolf, what is he referring to

and how do you understand it in our context today? Who/what steals your sense of fullness? What voices or influences in your life feel more like "thieves" than shepherds? How can we recognize and resist those voices in our lives?

5. Who in your life might need to hear that Jesus offers more than survival, more than an insurance policy for when we die but that Jesus offers fullness? How could you gently share that hope with them?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for one another to experience more of the fullness of life that Jesus offers.
- Pray against thieves and robbers, the things that try to take away what Jesus gives us.
- Pray for those you long to know to know Jesus and the life he offers.

Belonging & Purpose

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

INTRODUCTION

As Christians we are not just individuals trying to figure out our way through life but we are part of something bigger. We've been chosen and called by God not just for our own sake, but to reflect His light to the world around us. We belong to God and to one another and this gives us a purpose to live out everyday.

Can you think of a place, group, or moment where you've felt truly at home or deeply valued. What made it feel that way?

READ

Look up and read these verses and have them for reference as you discuss:

- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Ephesians 2:19-22
- John 15:16
- Romans 12:4-6

- 1. What does it mean to be "chosen" and "God's special possession"? How does knowing we belong to God shape the way we see ourselves and others? What lies or labels sometimes compete with this truth in your life?
- 2. Peter says we're chosen "that we may declare the praises of Him..." What does that look like in everyday life?
- 3. How do your gifts, passions, or experiences reflect God's purpose for you?

What helps you stay connected to your purpose when life feels ordinary or hard?

- 4. What does it look like to be a "royal priesthood" in your day to day life, family, community, work...?
- 5. Many people are searching for meaning, purpose and belonging, as we looked at in session 3 that longing is placed in our hearts. So how can we point, demonstrate, tell people about the longing they have can be found in Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray in response to what you have looked at together.
- Pray for those you know who are struggling with belonging and purpose in life.

Identity

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

INTRODUCTION

Earlier in the series we looked at how God is love, it is his character. Last week we looked at how we belong to God who is love and he has given us a purpose. This then shapes our identity. We are perhaps so used to the phrase that we are children of God that it almost becomes meaningless unless we pause to take in this astonishing reality that we are God's children. This isn't just a comforting thought but a complete identity shift. In a world that often defines us by achievements, appearance, or approval, God speaks a different word over us: beloved, chosen, His.

What's something quirky, meaningful, or unmistakable that you've inherited from your family, whether it's a trait, tradition, or saying, good or bad?

READ

Read these passages and have them for reference for your discussion:

- 1 John 3:1-3
- Galatians 4:6-7
- Ephesians 1:4-5
- Romans 8:15-17

- 1. What stands out to you in the phrase "lavished love"? (1 John 3.1)
- 2. How does being called a child of God challenge or affirm how you see yourself? Why do you think John emphasizes "And that is what we are"?
- 3. How does knowing you are God's child affect how you handle stress, failure, or success? How does this verse speak to you in your current season of life?

- 4. A friend asks you, 'What does it mean when Christians say they are a child of God?' How would you explain it?
- 5. What barriers might your friends have to believing they are loved by God? How can you respond with grace and truth?

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend sometime reflecting on the truth that you are loves by God, you
are chosen, special and he lavishes his love on you. Perhaps use a song
to help like 'You Say' by Lauren Daigle (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpNGYbcy3U)

The Hope of Heaven

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelation 21:4

INTRODUCTION

In Revelation 21:1–5, we're given a picture of heaven not as clouds and harps, but as a renewed creation, where God dwells with His people, where sorrow is silenced, and where everything broken is made whole. This is more than just comfort for the future but fuel for now. This was written to a church who were being persecuted and it reminded them as it does us of God's ultimate triumph over evil, sin and death.

If you could rewrite one part of the world, something broken, painful, or unjust, what would you change, and why?

READ

Read Revelation 21:1-5 (other passages you might want to have reference to are John 14:1-3, Philippians 3:20-21, Isaiah 25:8)

- 1. What images or phrases in Revelation 21:1–5 stand out to you most? How does this passage challenge or expand your view of heaven? How would you answer the question 'What do you believe about the afterlife?' How specific do you think Christians can be about what happens after death?
- 2. Why do you think God emphasizes "no more death, mourning, crying, or pain"?
- 3. How does the promise of heaven shape how we live now and in what areas of life do you most long for renewal or restoration?
- 4. How much do you think about what happens when die? How much do you think your friends think about it? Have you ever had a conversation with

- someone about it, if so what was their view?
- 5. What encourages you about the Christian perspective on life after death? How can it encourage you to share your faith with others?

PRAY TOGETHER

In John 14 Jesus talks about heaven and how he is the way to get there.
 If you have the means, play 'One Day' by Matt Redman (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8OKGP6kI_8) and use it to thank Jesus for making a way and pray for those who you long to be there celebrating with you.

Becoming a Christian

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Revelation 10:9

INTRODUCTION

This verse doesn't give us a checklist or a complicated formula. It offers a clear invitation: to trust, to speak, and to respond to God's love with faith. Becoming a Christian isn't about having all the answers, it's about saying yes to the One who already knows us fully and loves us completely.

Can you think of a moment, big or small, when a decision or realisation about something changed the direction of your life?

READ

Read Romans 10:9-13

- 1. What does it mean to declare that Jesus is Lord? Has your understanding of that changed since the first time you ever called Him Lord? If so what is different now?
- 2. Why do you think belief in the resurrection is central? Why can't we declare Jesus is Lord and not belief in his resurrection?
- 3. We generally tend to think that belief is a head thing, do you think the heart can believe without the head, can we believe with the head without the heart? What is the connection between belief and heart in this passage?
- 4. Where does your belief mainly reside? How do we help people to believe in the heart?
- 5. Verse 9 reminds us that the gospel is both inclusive, it is for anyone and exclusive, it only Jesus who can save. How does this encourage and challenge you in your day to day life? How will this verse spur us to action?

- 6. The Bible is full of different ways of inviting people to know Christ for themselves. Look at the following verses. Which of these do you find most helpful in explaining how to become a Christian?
 - Matthew 11:28: Come to me, all who are weary and burdened...
 - Mark 1:15: Repent and believe the good news
 - Mark 8:34-37: Take up your cross and follow me
 - John 1:43: Follow me
 - Acts 2:38: Repent, be baptised, receive the Holy Spirit...
 - Romans 8:15-16: we have received the Spirit of sonship
 - Romans 10:9: Jesus is Lord... and God raised him from the dead
 - Revelation 3:20: I stand at the door and knock...

Can you think of any others you would want to use?

9. We have come to the end of the series Know and Tell the Gospel. Look back and reflect on the series, what has encouraged you, challenged you, equipped you... what has changed or needs to change in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Spend some time praising God for his work in your life, both in first bringing you to Himself, and in standing with you in the years since.
- Ask God for a fresh sense of His presence with us, so that our faith may remain living and genuine, grounded in the reality of our lives.
- Pray for those known to you who do not yet know Christ for themselves, and ask God to use you in bringing them to Christ.