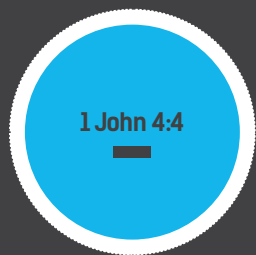


COVENANT<sup>EFC</sup>

# devotional journal 2014

1 - 31 august



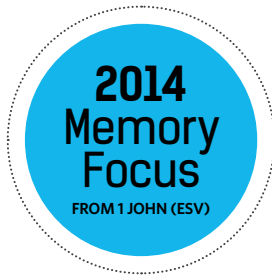
shine  
righteously

# shine

righteously

1 John 4:4

COVENANT EFC




---

## JANUARY

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**1 John 1:5**

---

### february

**1 JOHN 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### march

**1 JOHN 2:15**

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

---

### APRIL

**1 John 2:16**

*For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.*

---

### may

**And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

**1 John 2:17**

---

### JUNE

**1 JOHN 2:29**

*If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.*

---

### JULY

**1 John 3:1**

**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.**

---

### AUGUST

**1 JOHN 4:4**

*Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

### SEPTEMBER

**1 JOHN 4:10**

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

### OCTOBER

**1 JOHN 4:12**

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.*

---

### november

**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

**1 JOHN 4:18**

### december

**And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

**1 JOHN 5:11-12**

# foreword

## by senior pastors

### There must be something more in 2014!

There must be something more every new year!  
We long for something deeper, something satisfying,  
something radical, something life-changing, something  
that would really make a difference every new year.  
What will that "something more" be for you?

St. Augustine once said, *"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."* The deepest longing of the soul is for intimacy with God. It begins with God and is rooted IN HIM! *"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple."* (Ps 27:4)

#### 1. Intimacy as Our PURPOSE in Life:

***"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek..."***

The goal of every disciple of Christ is not merely to do things for God – although these are significant parts of God's redemptive order as seen in the Great Commission. Enjoying the intimacy with God is part of the creative order as seen in the Great Commandment. The ONE thing that is the most important in 2014 is our relationship with God! Everything revolves around this one defining purpose.

#### 2. Intimacy as Our PURSUIT in Life:

***"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek..."***

Someone once said, "We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are." In other words, who we are determines what we see and what we pursue, and we become what we pursue. "I shall seek" expresses a determination to pursue intimacy with God. What are you pursuing in 2014? What are you seeking?

There must be  
something more  
than this!

#### 3. Intimacy as Our PREOCCUPATION in Life:

***"That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life..."***

"All the days of my life" is not simply stating a period of time but a preoccupation of life! David declares "to dwell in the house of the Lord" as his prevailing desire, his grand preoccupation and his magnificent obsession. True spirituality stems not from some form of activity but from God's presence as the centre of his life. The dwelling place of God is in the quiet depths of our lives. May you experience and enjoy His presence throughout the year 2014!

#### 4. Intimacy as Our PASSION in Life:

***"To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple."***

David made a decisive choice to not only see, but behold and be captivated by the beauty of the Lord. God is of ultimate importance in his life and God is the one who gives meaning to life. David committed himself to "meditate in His temple". A person is often defined by abilities, accomplishments, appearance, acquisitions and associations. But God defines us by our personal relationship with Him. May your passion for spiritual intimacy with God attract and fuel pre-believing friends to know God in 2014.

#### There Must be Something More Than This!

Psalm 27 was written in the context of fear and uncertainty. Fear is mentioned three times in two verses (vv. 1, 3). Yet, in spite of the anxieties and fears, David focused on God and saw God Almighty as his revelation, redemption and refuge (vv. 1-3).

May we like David say, *"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.'" (v. 8).*

***In Christ,  
Ps Tony and Ps Kay Kiong***

# guide to using this journal



S.O.A.P.

## 1 *Prepare your heart in God's presence*

- Select a fixed time (preferably in the morning before you begin your day) and a quiet place where you can be alone and undisturbed.
- Observe a moment of silence as you acknowledge God's presence.
- Worship God with a song or hymn. (Refer to the list of worship songs provided.)
- Offer a prayer to God as you prepare to listen to His Word.

## 2 *Allow God to S.O.A.P. you with His Word and Spirit*

Each daily devotional entry is divided into four parts:

**Scripture** — Take your time to meditate on the Scripture passage for the day. Pause and mull over words and phrases that stand out to you.

**Observation** — Jot down significant insights and reflections from the passage you have read. Use the guiding questions provided.

**Application** — Note down a specific and practical commitment to God's Word for you. Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a principle to live out? Where appropriate, share your devotional entry with someone.

**Prayer** — Bring your response to God in prayer using the suggested prayer for the day.

# calendar

## july 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	<b>2</b> CGL Training 1/4	3	4	5	6
<b>7</b> IDT Semester 2 Commencement	8	<b>9</b> CGL Training 2/4	10	11	12	<b>13</b> Missions Week
<b>14</b> Missions Week	<b>15</b> Missions Week	<b>16</b> Missions Week	<b>17</b> Missions Week	<b>18</b> Missions Week	<b>19</b> Missions Family Night	<b>20</b> Missions Week
21	22	<b>23</b> CGL Training 3/4	24	25	26	<b>27</b> Baptism Service
<b>28</b> Hari Raya Puasa	29	<b>30</b> CGL Training 4/4	31			

Strongly Encouraged

## august 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	<b>8</b> Women's GLOW	<b>9</b> National Day	10
11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> Men's Summit	16	<b>17</b> ZM Training
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Prayer & Praise	30	31

Strongly Encouraged



# God Always Acts in Love

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:16; Hosea 3:1, 14:4-8

“God is love” (v. 16; also 1 John 4:8) is “the most comprehensive and sublime of all biblical affirmations about God’s being”<sup>1</sup>, referring to God’s “eternal nature”<sup>2</sup> that “He is love in His inmost being”<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, “to imagine that God does not love us is to deny His true nature, to repudiate His character. It is to distort the free grace of God into something much less worthy, a conditional love that depends on the attractiveness or worthiness of the object for it to be exercised. Divine love is utterly different. It cannot be earned; it cannot be deserved. God loves us because that is His nature.”<sup>4</sup> Loving is not “only one of God’s many activities”<sup>5</sup> but rather that “all His activity is loving activity”<sup>6</sup>. God always acts in love. “God is love” is also “a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29) who must judge sin in justice. But God judges in love, for “His loving is also in justice”<sup>7</sup>. God’s love has found a way to consume sin “without destroying the sinner, but rather saving him”<sup>8</sup>. We see this on the cross.

## OBSERVATION

*How does God show that He always acts in love according to Hosea 3:1 and 14:4-8?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What does it mean to me to know that God always acts in love?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

It has been quite a while,  
O God, that I do not feel Your  
love... But God is love! You  
have not ceased loving me  
or love me less, regardless of  
whether I feel Your love or not.  
For Your love is everlasting  
and unchanging! Even when  
You are angry, it is but for a  
moment; for Your love is for a  
lifetime.<sup>9</sup> I may not feel Your  
love now; but I thank You that  
You love me, even now. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

1 John Stott, *The Letters of John*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (IVP, 1964, 1988), 163

2 John Stott, 163

3 John Stott, 163

4 David Jackman, *The Message of John's Letters*, *The Bible Speaks Today* (IVP, 1988), 118

5 John Stott, 163 – citing Neil Alexander

6 John Stott, 163 – citing C. H. Dodd

7 John Stott, 163

8 John Stott, 163

9 Cf. Psalm 30:5



# The Triune God's Inner Life

## SCRIPTURE

**1 John 4:16; John 17:22-26**

“God is love” is the very essence and nature of God. John is “not identifying a quality which God possesses; he is making a statement about the essence of God’s being”<sup>10</sup>. Love is a “relational term, requiring both subject and object (someone loves someone else)”<sup>11</sup>. “God is love” alludes theologically to “the intra-Trinitarian relationship within the eternal God. God is love within Himself”<sup>12</sup>: the Father loves the Son (Jn 17:24), the Son loves the Father (Jn 14:31), the Spirit loves the Son, and so on. “There have been and are many manifestations of the love of God. It is no doubt constantly manifested in heaven (though not to human eyes) in the mysterious relations between the persons of the Godhead.”<sup>13</sup> This “Trinitarian ‘love’ describes God’s inner life”<sup>14</sup>, for “at the heart of the deity there is a dynamic inter-relationship of love”<sup>15</sup>. God’s love for us flows out of this Trinitarian love.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus say about divine love in His high priestly prayer in John 17:22-26?*

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

## APPLICATION

How do I now understand divine love?

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

## PRAYER

Mysterious, threefold God,  
visit my heart and there  
find a welcome as Maker,  
Mender and Builder.  
Come, my Source, my  
Saviour and my Comforter;  
take me up into the  
movement of love which  
flows in Your timeless unity,  
threefold God, Father, Son  
and Spirit.<sup>16</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

10 David Jackman, 118  
 11 Stanley J. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Broadman & Holman, 1994), 92  
 12 Stanley J. Grenz, 93  
 13 John Stott, 164; “Godhead” refers to the nature of God, especially as existing in three persons.  
 14 Stanley J. Grenz, 92  
 15 David Jackman, 118  
 16 Angela Ashwin, *The Book of a Thousand Prayers* (Zondervan, 1996, 2002), 364





**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

b. Journal your prayer.

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**LOVE IN ACTION**

Don't just say you love someone. Show your love with actions.

**Scripture - 1 John 3:17-18**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

Think of one object which can represent love. Show the object and share how you can use this object as a sign of love to somebody.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** Share with everyone how you can use the object to show love to someone.

**Q2:** Why is it so important to show love through actions and not words alone?

**Q3:** What is one action you can do to show God's love to your non-Christian friends?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

It is very easy to say "I love you" without doing anything about it. We can say it while we are lying down on the couch and yet not helping our parents do some housework. The Bible says that this is not true love. True love will cause someone to do something kind. As children of God, our actions will show that we truly love God and others too.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Think of one action you will do this week to show love to your parents. This action must be something you don't like to do, like making your bed or cleaning up after your snack.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, it's not easy for me to do things I don't like to do. But if it means showing love to my parents, then I want to. Please help me. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



# God's Love Perfected in Us

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:12, 17; Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2

In 1 John, the love of God is expressed in three modes dynamically: God loving us, we loving God and we loving people, with God as the initiator and origin of love. God's love in itself is perfect, because God is love (1 Jn 4:8, 16). Thus, it is at the human level that God's love is in the process of being perfected or made complete. It is "if we love one another...His love is perfected in us" (v. 12), and "by this" - abiding in love (1 Jn 4:16b) - that "love is perfected" (v. 17a). It is "when we love others that God's love for us has its full effect in our lives, or that our love for God reaches full expression (since loving Him involves fulfilling His command to love one another), or that kind of love that God showed towards us is being fully expressed in our lives"<sup>17</sup>.

It is "when we love others [that] God's love for us has reached its full effect in creating the same kind of love as His in us"<sup>18</sup>. It is our love, not "flawlessly perfect, but rather developed and mature, set fixedly upon God"<sup>19</sup>.

## OBSERVATION

*How does Paul describe God's love perfected or matured in us according to Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

In what concrete way do I think that God's love is perfected or matured in me to a certain extent?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Father, You love me as Your child. Lord Jesus, You loved me and offered Yourself as a sacrifice for me that God may forgive my sins through You. Help me to mature in love, to live a life filled with love - love that keeps me from unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, harsh words and slander, and enables me to give as Christ has given Himself to me. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>17</sup> I. Howard Marshall, *The Epistles of John*, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Eerdmans, 1978), 217

<sup>18</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 217

<sup>19</sup> John Stott, 171



# Day of Judgment: Confidence in Christ

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:17; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

The “day of judgment” (v. 17a) that will follow the Lord’s return will be one “of shame and terror for the wicked, but not for the redeemed people of God”<sup>20</sup>. God’s redeemed people will have “confidence” “because as He [Jesus] is, so also are we in this world” (v. 17b). We are “as He is” – not “we will be” (1 Jn 3:2); and “in this world” – not “when He appears” (1 Jn 3:2). We are as Jesus is in this world because we are “in Him”. We are not yet like Jesus in our character, but in our standing before God; even while in this sinful world with its temptations, we are already like Him. We “stand in the same relationship to God as that of Jesus to His Father”<sup>21</sup>. We are “sons in and through the Son, begotten and born of God as He was (1 Jn 5:18)”<sup>22</sup>. Jesus says to us concerning God: “My Father and your Father” (Jn 20:17). When Jesus called God “Father”, so may we (Gal 4:6). We can share the confidence before God which Jesus enjoys.

## OBSERVATION

*Why is it we can have confidence “in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” according to 1 Corinthians 1:4-9?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How should I live my life knowing that I can be confident before the Lord at His coming?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God of all grace, I will always give thanks to You for Your grace that You have given me in Christ. It is in Christ alone that I stand in confidence before You, the holy God; for You see me in Christ as the very righteousness of God. Teach me and help me through the Holy Spirit to live in Christ as a constant conscious reality. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>20</sup> John Stott, 171

<sup>21</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 223

<sup>22</sup> John Stott, 172



# Day of Judgment: Praise from God

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

When the Lord comes, we Christians will not be judged by God for our sins, because He has saved us and “seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph 2:4-6). However, we will be judged on our stewardship of our lives (vv. 1-2) – how we live our lives in Christ. God’s focus in His judgment will not be just on our performance, but primarily our posture: He will “bring to light the things hidden in darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts” (v. 5a) – the “truth about men’s conduct and character” “hidden in a dark place”<sup>23</sup>. There will not be any punishment, but “praise from God” to those whom He judged worthy (v. 5b). We have great propensity for human praise, because it is visible, audible and present. The worst form of human praise is self-praise. Do you know how to live without human praise? Live life desiring praise solely from God, which comes only when “the Lord comes”; for until then, nothing in life on earth is ultimately conclusive.

## OBSERVATION

*What are some implications in God’s judgment of Christians at Christ’s Second Coming according to 1 Corinthians 4:1-5?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What area(s) in my life do I need to pay attention to in light of God’s judgment of Christians at Christ’s Second Coming?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God all-seeing and all-knowing, search my heart. Do I seek the favour and praise of man or of God? Do I strive for human approval? If I do, then I am not a true bond-servant of Christ,<sup>24</sup> who lives in the audience of only one. What truly matters is what God sees and says of me as in my heart. Purify my heart, and magnify Yourself in my life. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>23</sup> C. K. Barrett, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, Black’s New Testament Commentary (Hendrickson, 1968), 103  
<sup>24</sup> Galatians 1:10



# Day of Judgment: When Evil Prevails

## SCRIPTURE

### **Revelation 18:1-8**

In Revelation, "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth" (Rev 17:5) represents the entire movement of anti-Christian opposition, seduction, deception and persecution expressed in various forms at any point of history.<sup>25</sup> It is an evil power capable of global influence and control - over "all the nations...the kings of the earth...the merchants of the earth" (v. 3). It is a very great political power, economic power, cultural power and immoral power. Its immense immoral power is particularly highlighted in Revelation (vv. 3, 7, 9). "Babylon the great" represents times when evil prevails. We must look at and live in such difficult times through Scripture. Evil will never prevail for long. Its end is certain: "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" (v. 2), for "God has remembered her iniquities" (v. 5), and "the Lord who judges her is strong" (v. 8). This divine judgment may take place in the near future; if not, it will happen eventually at the return of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

## OBSERVATION

*What are some of the evils that prevail extensively in our world today as described in Revelation 18:1-8?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How do I look at the world with such evil prevailing extensively and live in it by the Word of God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Giver of life, we wait with You to bear Your hope to earth's darkest places. We wait at the places where darkness is deeper than the deepest pain. Where love is denied, let love break through. Where justice is destroyed, let righteousness rule. Where hope is crucified, let faith persist. Where peace is no more, let passion live on. Where truth is denied, let the struggle continue. Amen.<sup>26</sup>

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>25</sup> William Hendriksen, *More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation* (Baker, 1940, 1967), 168  
<sup>26</sup> Adapted from a prayer of Robin Green, Angela Ashwin, 204-05



# Love and Fear in Vertical Relationship

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:18; Hebrews 12:1-11

"There is no fear in love" (v. 18a), because "love" and "fear" are incompatible, mutually exclusive and cannot coexist. "Fear has to do with punishment" (v. 18b, ESV) - the fear of God's punishment. We fear that God will punish us when we sin against Him or "for not making more progress in holy living"<sup>27</sup>. Does God intend for us to have such fear? Clearly, John says "No!" God loves us enough to send "His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 Jn 4:10), "so the punishment has already been met in full; there is nothing left to pay"<sup>28</sup>. Thus, when we sin against God, we ask Him for His forgiveness, and He is "faithful and righteous to forgive" (1 Jn 1:7-9). Punishment is "foreign to someone who is forgiven and loved"<sup>29</sup>. If we fear God and His punishment, it is because God's love has yet to fill our hearts and drive out all fear.<sup>30</sup> However, there is a place for "whom the Lord loves He disciplines" (Heb 12:6), which is not punishment, and the proper fear of God (Heb 12:28-29).

## OBSERVATION

*How does the writer of the Book of Hebrews present his perspective of God's love as the Father in Hebrews 12:1-11?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How would I embrace the perspective of God's love as the Father as presented by the writer of Hebrews?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

I am deeply grateful to You,  
O God, for Your immensely  
gracious and generous invitation  
to enter the Holy of holies with  
confidence by the blood of  
Jesus,<sup>31</sup> and to draw near with  
confidence to Your throne  
of grace to receive mercy  
and grace to help me in times  
of need.<sup>32</sup> I embrace Your  
invitation everyday  
with humble reverence, Holy  
Redeemer God. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>27</sup> David Jackman, 130

<sup>28</sup> David Jackman, 131

<sup>29</sup> David Jackman, 130

<sup>30</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 224

<sup>31</sup> Hebrews 9:12

<sup>32</sup> Hebrews 4:16



# Love and Fear in Horizontal Relationship

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:18; 2 Corinthians 7:2-4

"There is no fear in love" (v. 18) is to be true in our relationship of mutual love with God. This has to be true also in our relationships at the human level between fellow believers in Christ, between husband and wife, and as figures of authority such as parents and Christian employers or supervisors. Fear of punishment is real in human relationships. We fear being judged, rejected, looked down, prejudiced or penalised. There is no love when we fear to be authentic, honest and transparent before others. But such fear of punishment can be real or perceived. "Perfect love casts out fear." "Perfect love" is divine love that has reached its full maturity in a Christian, and therefore he/she has reached full spiritual maturity.<sup>33</sup> A mature Christian ought to intentionally prevent fear from taking place in any relationship. The opposite of fear in relationships is confidence (1 Jn 4:17). "Confidence in relationships" means we can share our lives openly, freely and comfortably, with the full assurance of understanding and acceptance.

## OBSERVATION

*How does Paul show open love to the Corinthians and encourage them to reciprocate in 2 Corinthians 7:2-4?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How would I intentionally prevent fear from taking place in my relationships with people?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God who is Love, fill my heart with the Spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, God who emptied Himself and humbled Himself;<sup>34</sup> that in my relating with all kinds of people, they meet Jesus in me, who is gentle and humble in heart;<sup>35</sup> that they feel heard, understood and accepted as they are by the compassionate Jesus in me. I want more and more of You in me, O Jesus of Nazareth! Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>33</sup> F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles of John* (Pickering Paperbacks, 1970), 113

<sup>34</sup> Philippians 2:6-8

<sup>35</sup> Matthew 11:29



# Sermon Notes



**Topic:** .....

**Scripture:** .....

**Main Points:**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Principles to Live by:**

What are the biblical principles found in this passage?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Practical Life Applications:**

What is one thing that I will do in the coming week?

.....  
.....  
.....

**REVIEW:**

What was my high point and my low point for the week?

.....  
.....

What gave me life and what drained me?

.....  
.....

How was the Spirit of God at work?

.....  
.....

**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

b. Journal your prayer.

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**FISHING FOR PEOPLE**

Jesus wants everyone to know Him, and He is teaching us to fish for people.

**Scripture - Matthew 4:19**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

**Props:** Laptop, computer, tablet or smartphone

Search the Internet for the biggest type of fish, the smallest one, the weirdest one, the most poisonous type and others. Have fun learning about them.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** Who was Jesus referring to as “fish” when He spoke to the disciples in Matthew 4:19?

**Q2:** Why does He want the disciples to stop fishing for fish but fish for men instead?

**Q3:** Who are the “fish” we know that we must fish for Jesus?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

Jesus’ mission on earth is to lead people to eternal life with God because they do not know the way. He chose some fishermen to be the missionaries to bring the gospel to the people. God has chosen us also to fish for men who do not know Him. He wants us to tell others about God’s love so that they will also believe in Him. We have a mission on earth as fishers of men.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Write down a list of people within your family circle who are not Christians. They may be your grandparents or uncles and aunts. Pray to God to help you fish them for Jesus.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

God, here is the list of people that I can fish for You. I pray that they will believe in You. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.

august two

family devotional week two



# God Loved Us First

## SCRIPTURE

**1 John 4:19; John 21:15-19**

Regarding love between God and us, the first thing God wants to say to us is not "Do you love Me?" (Jn 21:15-17). The first thing He wants to hear from us is not "I love You, O Lord" (Ps 18:1). The first thing He wants us to always remember is not that we are to love Him wholeheartedly (Mt 22:37-38). John states it plainly, "We love, because He first loved us" (v. 19), and also "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us" (1 Jn 4:10). It does not and it can never start with us loving God first. It always starts with God first loving us. The initiative is entirely God's. Jesus asked Peter "Do you love Me?" only after He had loved him as His own, and loved him to the end (Jn 13:1). The first thing God wants to say to us is, "I love you." The first thing He wants to hear from us is, "Father, thank You so much for loving me." And what God wants us to hold most supreme in our lives is, "Father, You have loved me; I want to love You."

## OBSERVATION

*What do you observe in the conversation on love between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15-19?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What does it mean to me to love Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

O Jesus, fill me with Thy love now, I beseech Thee, accept me, and use me a little for Thy glory. O do, do, I beseech Thee, accept me and my service, and take Thou all the glory.  
(David Livingstone, 1813-73)

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:



# The Glory of God's Love

## SCRIPTURE

### **John 11:1-7; Romans 8:35-37**

We may be in a very trying situation, desperate for divine intervention, without which everything will just fall apart – like Lazarus’ fatal sickness. We cry out to God, like Mary and Martha (v. 3). And we believe God will answer, and He must because we are devoted to Him like Mary (v. 2), and He loves us, just as Lazarus’ two sisters assumed (v. 3). We wait and watch with great expectation, but there is only a perplexing divine silence, even when everything falls apart and our “Lazarus” dies. Unbeknown to us, God is waiting as He hears our 24/7 fervent earnest petitions, waiting for our “Lazarus” to die (“So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer where He was”, v. 6). This divine act is for His glory (“this sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God”, v. 4). It is an act of love. John assures us in advance: “Now Jesus loved...” (v. 5). This love must be seen in the fuller canvas of “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...” (Jn 3:16).

## OBSERVATION

*How should we understand the love of God according to Romans 8:35-37?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How does the love of God portrayed in Romans 8:35-37 affect how I live my life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Loving Lord, help me to see Your love for me in all things, at all times. When I go through tribulation, when I am in distress, let me see Your love. When I am persecuted, when famine consumes me, let me see Your love. When I am stripped naked, when I face dangers, when I am threatened with death, let me see Your love. Let all these be only for Your sake. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:



# The Invisible Made Visible

## SCRIPTURE

**1 John 4:10-12, 20; Acts 2:42-47**

Twice in his letter, John relates the unseen God to mutual Christian love (vv. 12, 20). While it is true that "no one has seen God at any time" (v. 12), God wants Himself to be seen at all times – not directly though. How? In "we love one another" (v. 12). We love one another because God loved us by sending "His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (vv. 10-11) – the greatest demonstration of His love. Mutual love among Christians declares this glorious divine love. Our love for the unseen God is real when we love our fellow Christians whom we can see (v. 20). The "one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God who he cannot see" (v. 20b). It implies that we can love the invisible God only by loving the visible fellow Christians. The invisible reality is revealed and is real through the visible reality. Yet in reality, love is not easy. It demands humility, gentleness, patience and tolerance (Eph 4:2).

## OBSERVATION

*How is God manifested among His transforming community in Acts 2:42-47?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How much do I desire to see and to be part of such a transforming community of God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for Thy disciples that they might be one, even as Thou art one with the Father. Draw us to Thyself, that in common love and obedience to Thee we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that Thou art Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
(William Temple, 1881-1944)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:



# Words, Action, Truth, Heart

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:20; Mark 12:41-44

1 John 4:20 calls for a reality check. If I say, "I love God", are these words true? We should take heed: "It is the easiest thing in the world to make a verbal profession of Christian commitment, or to say 'I love God'... Is this not one of our greatest sins as Christians? We may talk a lot about loving God, we may express it in our worship with great emotion, but what does it mean when we are so critical of other Christians, so ready to jump to negative conclusions about people, so slow to bear their burdens, so unwilling to step into their shoes? Such lovelessness totally contradicts what we profess and flagrantly disobeys God's commands."<sup>36</sup> Actions speak louder than words; but still actions do not necessarily equate to love (1 Co 13:1-3). I may still be "a liar" in my "love in action". What is true is what God sees. People may see it, or they may not. Truth lies in the heart, where God alone can see.

## OBSERVATION

*How does Mark 12:41-44 challenge us to perform a reality check in our lives?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How can I ensure that my words and my actions are true as God sees them?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

For my deceitful heart and crooked thoughts; for barbed words spoken deliberately; for thoughtless words spoken hastily; for envious and prying eyes; for ears rejoicing in iniquity and rejoicing not in truth; for greedy hands; for wandering and loitering feet; for haughty looks; have mercy on me, O God.  
(John Baillie, 1886-1960)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>36</sup> David Jackman, 131



# Love in Its Fullness

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:19-21; Ephesians 4:15-16

Biblical love is portrayed in its fullness in three dimensions dynamically interlinked: God loves us, we love God and we love people. Love in its fullness is expressed in five interlocking ways. The origin of love: God first loved us (v. 19). The reason for loving God and loving people: We love God and we love people because God first loved us (v. 19). The manner of loving God: We love God by loving people (v. 20). The effect of loving God: When we love God we should love people (v. 21). The power of loving people: We love people with the love of God – not our own humanly generated love. “When God’s love begins to fill our lives, He not only gives us a model of how we should live in our human relationships, but He gives us both the desire and ability to begin to do it to reflect His love to others.”<sup>37</sup> We must be constantly growing in love and practising it in its fullness.

## OBSERVATION

*Where is the place of love in Christian growth according to Ephesians 4:15-16?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How am I growing in the fullness of biblical love (God loving me, I loving God and loving people)?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

O God, we have known and believed the love that You have for us. May we, by dwelling in love, dwell in You, and You in us. Teach us, O heavenly Father, the love wherewith You have loved us; fashion us, O blessed Lord, after Your own example of love; shed abroad, O You, Holy Spirit of love, the love of God and man in our hearts. For Your name’s sake. Amen.  
(Henry Alford, 1810-1871)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>37</sup> David Jackman, 131



# Say It with Love

## SCRIPTURE

### ***Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 12:33-37***

We ought to guard against the “inherent inconsistency”<sup>38</sup> of “a liar” in our love in words and actions (1 Jn 4:20). While our words should be validated by actions for congruence, we must not downplay the importance of words in love. Words have to do with communication, and here we are talking about interpersonal communication, since love is a relational reality. Oftentimes, we think of communication in terms of skills, as the frequently used phrase “communication skills” conveys. So, we seek to develop communication skills. But biblically, communication is character, not just competency. It is more a spirit than just skills. We are to communicate with love. And love is character. We need maturity and wisdom to know what to say – not unwholesome words, but “only what is helpful for building others up”; when to say – “according to the need of the moment”; and how to say – in such a way that “will give grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:29).

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus teach about our words in Matthew 12:33-37?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How should I grow in my speech?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Fill me with Your Spirit,  
Lord Jesus, so that just like  
You, the words that flow  
out of my heart may be  
Spirit-shaped and Spirit-led,  
gracious words falling from  
my lips.<sup>39</sup> Let it be that when  
I speak, I speak in Christ<sup>40</sup>  
and Christ speaks in me<sup>41</sup>.  
Help me to be quick to listen  
and slow to speak,<sup>42</sup> for death  
and life are in the power of  
the tongue<sup>43</sup>. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>38</sup> John Stott, 173

<sup>39</sup> Luke 4:22

<sup>40</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:19

<sup>41</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:3

<sup>42</sup> James 1:19

<sup>43</sup> Proverbs 18:21





**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

b. Journal your prayer.

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**BLESSING OUR MISSIONARIES**

I can do something to bless our missionaries.

**Scripture - Hebrews 10:24-25**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

Have everyone take turns to share one piece of good news.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** Can you remember one piece of good news that you have heard recently?

**Q2:** How would you feel if no one told you about that good news?

**Q3:** If Jesus' love is the good news, who should spread this good news and how can it be spread to everyone?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

In the book of Acts, God sent out many people to many parts of the world to spread the good news about God's love. They are called missionaries. We are all missionaries too because we have this good news to share with everyone. Spreading the good news in another country requires lots of hard work and we can do something to encourage the missionaries so that they will continue to do what God tells them to do.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Find out who are the missionaries in the church. Write a card to encourage them. You can ask the church office to help send this card to them.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, thank You for sending out missionaries to spread the good news. Please encourage them because it takes lots of hard work. Protect them too. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

august  
family devotional week three



# Truth, Transformation, Triumph

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:1-5; Romans 12:1-2

1 John 5:1-5 consists of certain key ideas that are theologically interrelated and may be summarised in three words: truth, transformation and triumph. Truth is believing that "Jesus is the Christ" (v. 1a) and believing that "Jesus is the Son of God" (v. 5). Transformation begins with being "born of God" and becoming a child of God, whose life is characterised by love for the Father. And love for God is expressed in loving other children of God and keeping the commandments of God (vv. 1b-3). Triumph is in overcoming the world (vv. 4-5). Transformation is founded and grounded on truth ("whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God", v. 1a). Triumph over the world comes about through truth ("he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God" "overcomes the world", v. 5) - and through transformation ("whoever is born of God has overcome the world", v. 4). The dynamic progressive process of our discipleship journey is from truth to transformation to triumph.

## OBSERVATION

*How are the ideas of truth of God, transformation of life and triumph over the world reflected theologically in Romans 12:1-2?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What is of greatest relevance to me in Romans 12:1-2?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Father, I dedicate my life to You as an offering of sacrifice on Your altar, just as Your Son offered His life for my redemption. Renew my mind by the truths of Your Word, and transform my life, that it may be conformed to the image of Your Son from glory to glory;<sup>44</sup> and overcome the world, not loving it or conforming to it. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>44</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18

August 19,  
Tuesday  
2014

# Truth: Centrality of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:1, 5; Colossians 3:1-4

The focus of 1 John 5:1-5 is “faith and divine sonship”<sup>45</sup>, as it begins with believing in Jesus as “the Christ” (v. 1a) and ends with “the Son of God” (v. 5). The full title “Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1 Jn 1:3; Jn 20:31) “points to the human as well as the divine status of the Lord”<sup>46</sup>. To be the “atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 Jn 2:2) as “a lamb unblemished and spotless” (1 Pe 1:18-19), Jesus must be fully human and fully divine. He has to be human in order to die; and He has to be divine to be the perfect sacrifice acceptable to God that makes salvation possible. Believing in Jesus as such is evidence of “standing in proper relationship to God”<sup>47</sup>. To John, this Christological truth is central to transformation of life and triumph over the world. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, means knowing Him and walking with Him under His lordship in worship to God, “to the glory of God the Father”<sup>48</sup>.

## OBSERVATION

*How does Paul describe a Christ-centered life in Colossians 3:1-4?*

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

## APPLICATION

How would I live a Christ-centered life according to Colossians 3:1-4?

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

## PRAYER

God almighty, eternal,  
righteous and merciful, give  
to us poor sinners to do for  
Thy sake all that we know of  
Thy will, and to will always  
what pleases Thee, so that  
inwardly purified, enlightened  
and kindled by the fire of  
the Holy Spirit, we may  
follow in the footprints of  
Thy well-beloved Son, our  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
(Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

45 I. Howard Marshall, 226

46 Stephen S. Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John*, Word Biblical Commentary (Word, 1984), Vol. 51, 13

47 Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 266

48 Philippians 2:11



# Transformation: God Initiates Regeneration

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:1; John 6:59-66

Transformation begins with “has been born of God” (v. 1a). The perfect tense verb indicates that the divine work of Spiritual regeneration (Jn 1:12-13; Tit 3:5) begins as a point event in a person who believes and receives Christ as Saviour with continuous effect. In other words, it is God who takes the initiative in the new birth or work of salvation. The gospel we preach “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Ro 1:16) to spiritually dead people with a total inability to save themselves (Eph 2:5a). Spiritual regeneration is totally God’s sovereign work (“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit”, Jn 3:8). So, “we do not need to fear for the gospel, whatever the prevailing cultural climate may be. God will still regenerate sinners wherever the message is proclaimed”<sup>49</sup>.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus say about people believing and not believing in Him in John 6:59-66?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How does understanding what Jesus says about people believing and not believing in Him help me in reaching out to the unsaved?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God of my salvation, You saved me, not because I sought You; I could not, for there is none who seeks God.<sup>50</sup> You chose me in Christ before the world was created, and predestined me to become Your child.<sup>51</sup> You drew me to Jesus,<sup>52</sup> and opened my heart to receive Him as my Lord and Saviour.<sup>53</sup> This is the glory of Your grace!<sup>54</sup> Blessed be Your name! Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>49</sup> David Jackman, 138

<sup>50</sup> Romans 3:11

<sup>51</sup> Ephesians 1:4-5

<sup>52</sup> John 6:44

<sup>53</sup> Acts 16:14

<sup>54</sup> Ephesians 1:6



# Transformation: Loving God Obediently

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:1-3; John 14:21, 23-24

Genuine Christian living involves true belief, new birth (v. 1a), and right behaviour expressed in love and obedience in a dynamic way (vv. 1b-3a). When we love God, we love God's children (v. 1b). When we love God, we keep His commandments (v. 3a). So, loving God's children and keeping God's commands are interrelated; "when we love God and observe His commandments", we show "practical love to God's children"<sup>55</sup> (v. 2). This is what it means to love God obediently. It is "easier to deceive ourselves in these matters than it is to deceive others. If we tell them that we love God, they will look for some visible evidence; hence we should first look for some visible evidence ourselves. If the visible evidence is forthcoming, it will not be necessary to say that we love God; the evidence will say so more convincingly."<sup>56</sup> "If love to men proves the truth of our love to God, love to God proves the worth of our love to men."<sup>57</sup>

## OBSERVATION

What does Jesus teach about loving Him and obeying Him in John 14:21, 23-24?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What could get me to love and obey Jesus, or keep me from loving and obeying Him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

O my God, let me walk in the way of love which knoweth not how to seek self in anything whatsoever. Let me love Thee for Thyself, and nothing else but in and for Thee. Let me love nothing instead of Thee, for to give all for love is a most sweet bargain. Let Thy love work in me and by me, and let me love Thee as Thou wouldst be loved by me.  
(Gertrude More, 1606-33)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>55</sup> F. F. Bruce, 116

<sup>56</sup> F. F. Bruce, 116

<sup>57</sup> G. G. Finlay, *Fellowship in Life Eternal* (London, 1909), 368



# Triumph: Obedience is Possible

## SCRIPTURE

**1 John 5:3-4; Matthew 11:25-30**

God’s commandments are “not burdensome” (v. 3b) – “not oppressive, so as to crush the freedom and spontaneity of love”<sup>58</sup> for God and people. Obedience to God is possible because the true believer “has been born of God”, and as such, he possesses “the power of Spiritual regeneration”<sup>59</sup> “to overcome the world” (v. 4a). We need to know what we have, and appropriate it. This “does not mean that it is easy to fulfill God’s commands, for we all retain an inbuilt bias away from God through our sinful human nature.”<sup>60</sup> The “new Spiritual life implanted within us is constantly warring against the old sinful nature”<sup>61</sup> (Gal 5:16-17). But the more we abide in Christ and keep coming to Him to draw on His limitless resources, the more we will experience increasing victory over sin. But the battle will never be finally won in this life; for we are not fully redeemed until Jesus returns when “we will be like Him” (1 Jn 3:2).

## OBSERVATION

*How does Jesus describe discipleship in Matthew 11:25-30?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

What do I particularly need to know about Jesus in following Him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God of grace, give me such a love for You, that I may find obedience to You not a burden but a delight; that I may find the cost of loyalty to You, not a trial but a privilege; that I may find Your commandments, not chains to bind us but wings to uplift us. So grant that love may sweeten all obedience, and lighten every task, so that living for You may be all joy. Amen.<sup>62</sup>

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>58</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 269

<sup>59</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 270

<sup>60</sup> David Jackman, 141

<sup>61</sup> David Jackman, 141

<sup>62</sup> Adapted from William Barclay, *A Barclay Prayer Book* (SCM, 1990, 2003), 100-101



# Triumph: Overcoming the World

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 17:11-14

The “world” we overcome “has the negative sense of humanity itself, ranged against God and therefore against His church” – “the very powers of evil at work in the world”<sup>63</sup> (cf. 1 Jn 5:19), expressed philosophically, culturally, socially, politically, economically and fundamentally spiritually. We overcome the world because we are “born of God” (v. 4a), possessing “the power of the new birth”<sup>64</sup>, and because we believe in Jesus that He is “the Son of God” (v. 5b), who has already overcome the world – and this is “our faith” (v. 4b). Jesus said to His disciples before He was crucified, “In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). The “victory over the world has already been won by Christ, and is being continuously won (through Him) by the Church”<sup>65</sup>. Our faith in action is powerful because what we believe is founded and grounded on whom we believe. It is in Christ, through Christ and with Christ that we overcome the world.

## OBSERVATION

*How does John describe the evil world (“the beast” and the “ten kings”) waging war against Jesus, the Lamb, in Revelation 17:11-14?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How can I overcome the evil world according to Revelation 17:11-14?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

O Lamb who is infinitely mightier than any beast, however powerful, ferocious, tyrannical and lethal they appear in human eyes! O King of kings and Lord of lords, to whom the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; who lifts up the islands like fine dust!<sup>66</sup> Help me to follow You faithfully wherever You go.<sup>67</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>63</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 270

<sup>64</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 270

<sup>65</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 270

<sup>66</sup> Isaiah 40:15

<sup>67</sup> Revelation 14:4





**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

b. Journal your prayer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**I AM GOOD**

Do not believe in the lie that I am not good enough for Jesus.

**Scripture - 1 John 3:19-24**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

Say to your children, "Let's list down some of the bad things that people may say to each other (such as, 'You are ugly and good for nothing')."

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** How do you feel when someone says something bad about you?

**Q2:** Why would people say such bad things to each other?

**Q3:** How can God's Word help me believe that He has accepted me (1 Jn 3:19-24)?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

Telling someone that he is not good enough or that God doesn't love him is very inconsiderate and harsh. We should not judge another person because we are also being judged by God. We must believe what God says about us, that we are loved and precious in His sight. Don't believe in the lies of the devil that we are not good enough for Jesus. He loves us just as we are.

**4. ACTION POINT**

If you have said something bad to your siblings or parents, do apologise to them. Say something good instead. Begin with the statement, "In God's eyes you are ..."

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear Jesus, please forgive me for judging others. I am sorry for not believing what You say about me too. Help me to know that I am loved by You. Amen.

august

family devotional week four



# The Triune God of Our Salvation

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:6-9; 2 Corinthians 13:14

The theology of 1 John 5:6-9 is “fully Trinitarian”<sup>68</sup>: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, “came” from the Father (1 Jn 4:14) “by water and blood” (v. 6a), concerning whom the Spirit and God testify (vv. 6b-9). This is the Nicene Creed (381 AD) on the Holy Trinity:

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence He shall come again with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeded from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic<sup>69</sup> and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”<sup>70</sup>

## OBSERVATION

What do you learn about the Triune God in 2 Corinthians 13:14?

---



---

## APPLICATION

How can I consciously walk in fellowship with the Triune God?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

## PRAYER

Father, You enfold us with wings of love, as a bird protects her young. In our sin we have spurned Your love. Lord, have mercy. Jesus, You gather us around You that we may learn Your ways. In our sin we have strayed from Your presence.

Christ, have mercy. Holy Spirit, You feed us with the seed of Your holy word. In our sin we have chosen the chaff.

Lord, have mercy.<sup>71</sup>

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for family:
- Pray for bosses:
- Pray for peers and staff:
- Pray for self:

<sup>68</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 281

<sup>69</sup> The term “catholic” means universal.

<sup>70</sup> Mark A. Noll, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (Baker, IVP, 1997), 57

<sup>71</sup> Adapted from a prayer of John Townend, Angela Ashwin, 366



# The Son of God: His Baptism

## SCRIPTURE

### **Matthew 3:7-15**

Jesus Christ “came by water and blood” (1 Jn 5:6a) – “the terminal points in the earthly ministry of Jesus: His baptism (‘by water’) at the beginning, and His crucifixion (‘by blood’) at the end”<sup>72</sup>. Jesus’ baptism was an act of great humble condescension. Jesus was greater than John the Baptist (“He who is coming is mightier than I”, v. 11a). The superior baptiser, who will “baptise with the Holy Spirit”, was baptised by the inferior baptiser, who baptised “with water” (v. 11a). The superior baptiser of a superior baptism was baptised in an inferior baptism. In fact, John protested, “I have need to be baptised by You, and do You come to me?” (v. 14). To John, that was incongruent and unacceptable. The sinless Jesus who “will save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21) was baptised in “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Lk 3:3). For Jesus it was right for Him to “accept the lower place”<sup>73</sup> so as “to identify Himself with the penitent people of God”<sup>74</sup>, in “conformity to God’s will” (v. 15).<sup>75</sup>

## OBSERVATION

*What is the contrast and significance of what John the Baptist said about Jesus as the coming Messiah (Mt 3:7, 10, 12) and Jesus subjecting Himself to be baptised (vv. 14-15)?*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## APPLICATION

How does the way Jesus reveal Himself at His baptism affect my Christian life?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## PRAYER

Lord, I am awed by Your humble condescension! What majestic humility! Such is the kind of God You are! You have shown how much You want to reach out to sinners to redeem them, among whom I am one of them. I am deeply grateful to You for such love, such grace and such mercy. I want to follow You in this path of divine humility. Help me to do so, Lord. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for family:
  
- Pray for bosses:
  
- Pray for peers and staff:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>72</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol. 51, 278

<sup>73</sup> R. T. France, *Matthew*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (IVP, 1985), 94

<sup>74</sup> R. T. France, 94

<sup>75</sup> D. A. Carson, *Matthew*, The Expositor's Bible Commentary (Zondervan, 1984), Vol. 8, 107



# The Son of God: His Blood

## SCRIPTURE

### **Leviticus 16:2-22; Hebrews 10:11-25**

God's holy presence in the "the Most Holy Place" dwells with His people in the midst of their "uncleanness and rebellion" (v. 16b, NIV). The Day of Atonement is observed once a year "to cleanse the sanctuary from the pollutions introduced to it by the unclean worshippers" (vv. 16, 19) and "make possible God's continued presence among His people"<sup>76</sup>. Two goats are set aside for a sin offering (v. 5). One is slaughtered; its blood "to make atonement for the Most Holy Place" (vv. 15-16). Then, the high priest lays his hands on the head of the other goat, "a live goat", and "confesses over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites" and sends it away into the wilderness, bearing on itself all of Israel's sins (vv. 20-22). All of Israel's sins are thus forgiven, cleansed and "exterminated"<sup>77</sup>. The Day of Atonement "prefigures the crucifixion"<sup>78</sup>. Our sins are purged once and for all by Jesus' blood (Heb 9:12), so that we can enter God's holy presence at any time, once reserved only for the high priest once a year (v. 2).

## OBSERVATION

*What has the blood of Jesus accomplished (Heb 10:11-25)?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How should I live my life in light of what the blood of Jesus has accomplished?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

God, as I ponder upon the cross through the Day of Atonement, I see Your heart towards sinners like me. I see how much You desire to be with me, and me with You, to have fellowship together as Father and child, made possible by the blood of the Lamb of God. For it is only the blood of Jesus that can bring the Holy and the unholy together. Thank you, God. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for family:
  
- Pray for bosses:
  
- Pray for peers and staff:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>76</sup> Gordon J. Wenham, *The Book of Leviticus*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Eerdmans, 1979), 2228

<sup>77</sup> Gordon J. Wenham, 235

<sup>78</sup> Gordon J. Wenham, 237



# The Spirit of Truth: His Testimony

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

The Holy Spirit testifies to the reality of Jesus as one with God (the Son of God) and one with man - baptised ("by water") and crucified ("by blood") in history (vv. 6-8).<sup>79</sup> Historically, the Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism, "as a mark of His divine Sonship"<sup>80</sup> (Jn 1:32-34), and Jesus "through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God" (Heb 9:14) on the cross. The Spirit testifies in Scripture: He inspired the Old Testament prophets who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah (1 Pe 1:10-12), and the Scriptures were written by "men [who] spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pe 1:20-21). Thus, the Spirit "gives life" through the Word of God (Jn 6:63), as He teaches and guides us "into all the truth" (Jn 14:26; 16:13). The Spirit "also witnesses to the truth about Jesus in the hearts of believers, who then possess that witness within themselves (1 Jn 5:10)."<sup>81</sup> The Spirit, who "is the truth" (v. 6b), enlightens and enables us to believe the truth about Jesus as revealed in Scripture.

## OBSERVATION

What does the Holy Spirit do to Christians according to 1 Corinthians 2:9-16?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How can I increase in appropriating the Holy Spirit's work in my life concerning "the things freely given to us by God" (1 Co 2:12)?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Breathe in me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may think what is  
holy. Move me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may do what is holy.  
Attract me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love what is holy.  
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may guard what is  
holy. Guard me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may keep what is holy.  
(St Augustine of Hippo)

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>79</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol.51, 280

<sup>80</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol.51, 280

<sup>81</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol.51, 280



# When It is God who Testifies

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:9-10; Numbers 23:19

The words “testimony” and “testify” both occur 12 times in 1 John, of which 10 times are found in 5:6-11, all pointing to “the testimony of God”. We normally accept human testimony, and since it is God’s testimony, it must be received and believed – because God is “greater” (v. 9a). God is “infinitely greater in His eternal nature and power than finite, mortal man” and of “greater trustworthiness”<sup>82</sup>. God’s testimony concerns “the all-important person of God’s Son”<sup>83</sup> (vv. 9-10), and “it follows that acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God is of fundamental and decisive importance”<sup>84</sup>. God’s testimony is true, otherwise He is a liar. And John insists that because God’s testimony is absolutely true, to reject it is to make God “a liar” (v. 9b). Truth “is not the majority view in the opinion poll. It is not feeling good about something. It is not an emotional encounter”<sup>85</sup>. Truth is “grounded in God’s character alone... All truth is God’s truth, because only He is the ultimate reality”<sup>86</sup>.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Numbers 23:19 say about God?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How should I live by what God has spoken in Numbers 23:19?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Holy and righteous God, promises You have made “long ages ago” You have fulfilled and will fulfill “at the proper time”, because it is impossible for God to lie.<sup>87</sup> You are perfectly faithful and absolutely trustworthy. Help me to walk by faith and not by sight,<sup>88</sup> living by Your Word, for Your Word is truth,<sup>89</sup> and relying on and trusting in You in all things at all times. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>82</sup> David Jackman, 151  
<sup>83</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, Vol.51, 283  
<sup>84</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 239  
<sup>85</sup> David Jackman, 149  
<sup>86</sup> David Jackman, 149  
<sup>87</sup> Titus 1:2-3  
<sup>88</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:7  
<sup>89</sup> John 17:17



# How Do You Define a Christian?

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 5:11-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:2

John defines what a Christian is – one who has the Son of God and eternal life (v. 12). The two realities go together. Eternal life is in the Son (v. 11), and the Son is the eternal life (1 John 1:2); thus, it is “impossible to have life without having Christ as it is to have Christ without thereby having life also”<sup>90</sup>. To have Christ is more than just possessing Him and He being present in me. It means Christ is preeminent in my life, having “first place in everything” (Col 1:18). It is “no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal 2:20). It is “to live is Christ” (Php 1:21). It is salvation in Christ, and that salvation lived out in total devotion to Christ. Eternal life is knowing God and Christ (Jn 17:3). It is “a personal-encounter knowledge of God, leading on to a lifetime of fellowship with Him”<sup>91</sup> on earth that continues into eternity. Eternal life is present and future; already and not yet. A Christian has only one kind of life to live: eternal life. Is the life I am consciously living just an earthly life, or an eternal life lived in my earthly existence?

## OBSERVATION

*What does it mean to live the eternal life in Christ in our earthly existence according to 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:2?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## APPLICATION

How would I consciously live the eternal life in Christ and not just an earthly life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

I thank You, God of my salvation, for the gift of eternal life in Christ. Help me through Your grace to consciously live the eternal life in my earthly existence, seeking to know You and Your Son in continual fellowship, and setting my mind and my heart on the things above, not on the things on earth,<sup>92</sup> on things that are eternal, and not the temporal.<sup>93</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for family:
  
- Pray for bosses:
  
- Pray for peers and staff:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>90</sup> John Stott, 186

<sup>91</sup> David Jackman, 159

<sup>92</sup> Colossians 3:2

<sup>93</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:18





**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

b. Journal your prayer.

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

-----

# Missions Prayer

## FOCUS OF THE MONTH

### East Asia Leaders Mentoring

#### PERSPECTIVE

The churches in China are growing rapidly and there is a growing need for mentoring of Christian leaders many of whom come from big churches. Chinese pastors struggle with many issues in ministry and in family life. Some have fallen into sin, others grapple with ethical issues in their church, such as living together unmarried, abortion and homosexuality. They struggle with materialism, leadership and pastoral care issues. The environment is very demanding for pastors — some of whom are young pastors.

What many of these Chinese pastors need is someone to walk with them and guide them on how he or she needs to grow.

The mentoring paradigm to help Chinese pastors grow in authentic and intentional discipleship is part of the work our missionaries do. However, mentoring does not extend only to pastors. Young Christians who are earnest to reach out to others and are involved in various ministries of the church need someone spiritually mature to walk with them.

#### PARTNERSHIP

PSB and his family have been living in China and working in the field for many years. Though they have given up a lot to go to the field, they have never regretted the decision. They have always testified to God's goodness and have never lost the enthusiasm and energy for the work that God has sent them to do. The couple work closely together to support each other in various ways in their ministry. Their ministry is largely in three areas:

- 1) Ministering and mentoring leaders of local churches (some of which have memberships that are thousands strong) so that they can experience breakthroughs in their lives and ministry.
- 2) Partnering with local churches to establish disciplemaking church plants (DCPs).

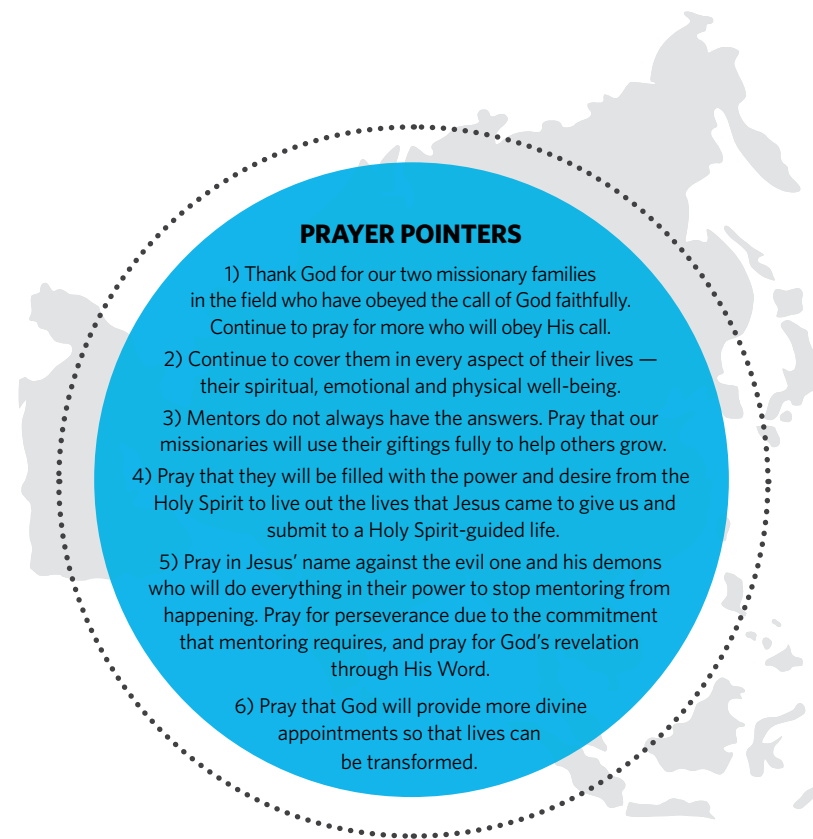
# Missions Prayer (Cont'd)

## FOCUS OF THE MONTH

### East Asia Leaders Mentoring

3) Ministering and mentoring a group of marketplace leaders, several of whom are CEFC members who have been sent to work in China. These marketplace leaders have their own small groups of Chinese whom they disciple and mentor as well.

PDW works with one of the local DCPs. The teaching of English is used as a platform to reach out. He works with a group of leaders in this programme and there is a need to level up the group of leaders as they work in a ministry that is growing rapidly. He also holds counselling sessions with people who have family issues. His wife is also involved in the training of teachers in the Sunday school ministry as well as the pioneering of weekend English Classes. Even their children are involved in the latter ministry.



#### PRAYER POINTERS

- 1) Thank God for our two missionary families in the field who have obeyed the call of God faithfully. Continue to pray for more who will obey His call.
- 2) Continue to cover them in every aspect of their lives — their spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.
- 3) Mentors do not always have the answers. Pray that our missionaries will use their giftings fully to help others grow.
- 4) Pray that they will be filled with the power and desire from the Holy Spirit to live out the lives that Jesus came to give us and submit to a Holy Spirit-guided life.
- 5) Pray in Jesus' name against the evil one and his demons who will do everything in their power to stop mentoring from happening. Pray for perseverance due to the commitment that mentoring requires, and pray for God's revelation through His Word.
- 6) Pray that God will provide more divine appointments so that lives can be transformed.

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**PHILIPPIANS 1: 4-6**

# worship songs

---

## THRIVE

### Intro

Oh oh

### Verse 1

Here in this worn and weary land  
Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water  
We will never run dry

### Pre-Chorus

So living water flowing through  
God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls  
With one desire

### Chorus

Just to know You and to make You known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun, make darkness run and hide

We know we were made for so much more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

### Verse 2

Into Your Word we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out  
To show them who You are

## THRIVE (CONT'D)

### Bridge

Joy unspeakable  
Faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable  
Anything is possible  
(Repeat 3X)

### Interlude

Oh oh  
Oh oh

### Ending

We were made to thrive

Words & Music: Mark Hall | Matthew West  
Year & Publisher: © External Combustion Music (Admin. by CopyCare Asia Ltd (Singapore Branch)); Songs for Delaney (Admin. by CopyCare Asia Ltd (Singapore Branch)); My Refuge Music (Admin. by Crossroad Distributors Pty. Ltd.); Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (Admin. by Sony/ATV Songs LLC); Songs of Southside (Admin. by Unaffiliated Admin (UA))  
CCLI License #: 324618

## GOD OF AGES

God of ages bringing glory here  
 You are good  
 You are good  
 Son of righteousness  
 You are all I seek  
 With all my heart

### Pre-chorus

Giver of life  
 Hope for the lost is in You  
 All of the earth shines with Your light  
 Your glory

### Chorus

You are the God who lives  
 You are the God who heals  
 You are my hope, my everything  
 You brought salvation to us  
 Offered Your peace to the world  
 You are my Lord, my everything

### Verse 2

In Your promise and Your faithfulness  
 I will trust all my days  
 King forever, reign in majesty  
 Be glorified

Words & Music: Ben Fielding  
 Year & Publisher: © 2007 Hillsong Music Publishing  
 CCLI License #: 324618

## GIVE ME JESUS

### Verse 1

In the morning when I rise  
 In the morning when I rise  
 In the morning when I rise  
 Give me Jesus

### Chorus 1

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus  
 You can have all this world  
 But give me Jesus

### Verse 2

And when I am alone  
 Oh and when I am alone  
 And when I am alone  
 Give me Jesus

### Verse 3

And when I come to die  
 Oh and when I come to die  
 And when I come to die  
 Give me Jesus

### Chorus 2

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus  
 You can have all this world  
 You can have all this world  
 You can have all this world but give me Jesus

Words & Music: Fernando Ortega  
 Year & Publisher: © Words: Public Domain; Music: 2000  
 DeJamesolo Music (Admin. by CopyCare Asia Ltd (Singapore  
 Branch)); Word Music, LLC (Admin. by CopyCare Asia Ltd  
 (Singapore Branch))  
 CCLI License #: 324618

## COME HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit fall on me now  
 I need Your anointing  
 Come in Your power  
 I love You Holy Spirit  
 You're captivating my soul  
 And every day I grow to love You more

### Chorus

I'm reaching for Your heart  
 You hold my life in Your hand  
 Drawing me closer to You  
 I feel your power renew

Nothing compares to this place  
 Where I can see You face to face  
 I worship You in spirit and in truth

Publisher: City Harvest Church

## HOLY SPIRIT RAIN DOWN

Holy Spirit rain down  
 Rain down  
 O Comforter and Friend  
 How we need Your touch again

Holy Spirit rain down  
 Rain down  
 Let Your power fall  
 Let Your voice be heard  
 Come and change our hearts  
 As we stand on Your Word  
 Holy Spirit  
 Rain down

No eye has seen, no ear has heard  
 No mind can know what God has in store  
 So open up heaven, open it wide  
 Over Your church  
 And over our lives

Words & Music: Russell Fragar  
 Publisher: © 1997 Hillsong Music Publishing  
 CCLI License #: 324618

## BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Words & Music: Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne  
Year & Publisher: © Words: Public Domain  
CCLI License #: 324618

## JUST AS I AM

### Verse 1

Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Verse 2

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Chorus

I come broken to be mended  
I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued  
I come empty to be filled

I come guilty to be pardoned  
By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

### Verse 3

Just as I am I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Ending

Praise God just as I am  
Just as I am

Words & Music: Charlotte Elliott | David Moffitt | Sue C. Smith | Travis Cottrell |  
William Batchelder Bradbury  
Year & Publisher: © 2009 CCTB Music (Admin. by Universal Music Publishing  
MGB Australia Pty Limited); First Hand Revelation Music (Admin. by Universal  
Music Publishing MGB Australia Pty Limited); Universal Music - Brentwood Benson  
Publishing (Admin. by Universal Music Publishing MGB Australia Pty Limited)  
CCLI License #: 324618

## BREATHE

### Verse 1

This is the air I breathe  
 This is the air I breathe  
 Your holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread  
 This is my daily bread  
 Your very word spoken to me

### Chorus

And I, I'm desperate for You  
 And I, I'm lost without You

### Ending

This is the air I breathe  
 This is the air I breathe

Words & Music: Marie Barnett  
 Year & Publisher: © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by K I Publishing)  
 CCLI License #: 324618

## HEART OF WORSHIP

### Verse 1

When the music fades and all is stripped away  
 And I simply come  
 Longing just to bring something that's of worth  
 That will bless Your heart

### Bridge

I'll bring You more than a song  
 For a song in itself is not what You have required  
 You search much deeper within  
 Through the way things appear  
 You're looking into my heart

### Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
 And it's all about You  
 It's all about You, Jesus  
 I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
 When it's all about You  
 It's all about You, Jesus

### Verse 2

King of endless worth, no one could express  
 How much You deserve  
 Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours  
 Every single breath  
 (Repeat Bridge and Chorus)

### Tag

I'll bring You more than a song  
 I'll bring You more than a song  
 You're looking into my heart  
 Looking into my heart

Words & Music: Matt Redman  
 Year & Publisher: © 1997 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)  
 CCLI License #: 324618



## AMAZING GRACE MY CHAINS ARE GONE

### Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

### Verse 2

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

### Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

### Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

### Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who call'd me here below  
Will be forever mine

Words & Music: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio  
Year & Publisher: © 2006 sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI  
Christian Music Publishing); Vamos Publishing (Admin.  
by EMI Christian Music Publishing); worshiptogether.com  
songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)  
CCLI License #: 324618

## notes

---

# notes

---

A large, light blue rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, intended for writing notes. The area is bounded by a solid black line on the left and a solid black line on the top. The dashed lines are evenly spaced and run horizontally across the entire width of the blue area.

**COVENANT** EFC

© 2014 COVENANT EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 • Email: [mail@cefc.org.sg](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) • Website: [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)