



BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS AND CHALLENGING CONTENT DESIGNED TO RESOURCE RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

LIFE IN GOD'S STORY PREACHING GUIDE

While the Proximity resource is designed to be used in small and relational environments of discipleship such as one-to-one conversations or discipleship triads, accompanying this with whole-church preaching might help to both teach further on the themes and better stimulate the discipleship conversations. To accompany the preaching, you could also give out the booklets to help people reflect further on their own or in conversation with others.

Below are the passages linked to each of the themes from "Life in God's Story" to help you use this in a teaching setting. "Life in God's Story" focuses on exploring how we live in response to God's big story unfolded in the Bible. The story reveals God's identity as Creator, Redeemer, Rescuer and Renewer, helping us to understand our responsibility as his children. This Proximity resource unpacks our life in God's story by pointing to the paradise we were made for, the brokenness of humanity, the rescue offered by Jesus and God's plan for renewal through the power of his Spirit, the work of his church and his coming to earth.

1/ HOOKED

Key Focus: God's story is focused on the One who is the way, the truth and the life. Approach life thoughtfully, by reflecting who's way, truth & life we are following.

Key Text: John 14:1-6

Additional Text: John 1:1-14

Key Quote: "While it has many different scenes and subplots, there is one single, connected and overarching story that revolves around his Kingdom where he is centre stage."

2/ MADE

Key Focus: God's story starts with the Creator and his creation as we glimpse how we were made with perfection, for paradise and with purpose. Approach life thankfully by savouring the beauty and goodness of life.

Key Text: Genesis 1

Additional Text: Psalm 139

Key Quote: "The centre piece of the story is not what God has made but God himself."

3/ FRAYED

Key Focus: God's way is rejected, resulting in brokenness and disorder. Approach life realistically, accepting that things are not the way they are supposed to be.

Key Text: Genesis 3

Additional Text: Psalm 51

Key Quote: "No fig leaves, filters or photoshop can make us look any better before a holy God."



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4/ ANTICIPATING

Key Focus: God is patient with his people, constantly leading them on a journey towards him. He keeps his promises but doesn't always act on our timescale meaning the challenge is to wait on God and to trust him. Approach life expectantly, waiting in hope for the fulfilment of God's promises.

Key Text: Exodus 6:1-12

Additional Text: Hebrews 11

Key Quote: "Even though we fail to live out the ways of God, we can be secure in the knowledge of his presence with us and reassured by his never failing promises."

5/ RESCUED

Key Focus: God's story shows that his people need rescuing from their sin. Jesus came to free us from the sin that accuses us and set us on the path of new actions. Approach life humbly, freed by Jesus from every accusation to act differently.

Key Text: John 8:1-11

Additional Text: Romans 8:33-39

Key Quote: "In moments of need when we feel most exposed by sin and the shame that comes with it, we find Jesus ready to step in to save us."

6/ EMPOWERED

Key Focus: God empowers his people by his Spirit and challenges them to be his witnesses in the world. Approach life courageously, being prepared to share the good news of Jesus in the places he puts us to be his witnesses.

Key Text: Acts 1:1-8

Additional Text: Luke 10:1-11

Key Quote: "We are empowered to be participants in God's story through the Holy Spirit, bringing our particular gifts and contributions."

7/ TOGETHER

Key Focus: Jesus does his work in the world through his church. Approach life together, taking your place within the life and witness of the church.

Key Text: Acts 2:42-47

Additional Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

Key Quote: "The plural of disciple is church. We aren't called to follow Jesus alone but are designed to learn, share, pray and serve with others."



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8/ RENEWED

Key Text: Revelation 21:1-8

Key Focus: God's story ends with the incredible picture of the future awaiting God's people. Approach life hopefully, knowing that the end of the story is not in doubt and all things will be made new.

Additional Text: Isaiah 65:17-25

Key Quote: "The focus of our hope doesn't fall upon the brilliant benefits of heaven, but in the beauty of belonging to Christ."