

LIFE



Resources for Growth Groups



TOONGABBIE
ANGLICAN
CHURCH

www.tac.church

What is the LIFE course?

The Life course is a an introduction to Christian faith designed to be accessible, engaging and transformative – especially for people who don't yet know Jesus. We long for people to find eternal life in Him!

We will typically run the Life course on a weeknight or over weekend lunches, but as we launch the course, we will work through it in our Sunday services. We hope this means all of TAC will be familiar with and confident in the Life course, and so be eager to invite their friends to it.

Sundays will take on a different feel with testimonies, stories, videos, Q&A panels and shorter talks (designed to prompt questions and faith!).

These study booklets will complement Sundays. We hope this helps you:

- ① Grow in delight in the foundations of Christian faith
- ② Grow together through the sharing of stories
- ③ Be prompted and equipped to share gospel truths



...Lord, may you bring hundreds of people from many nations in our community into a saving knowledge of your Son.

Shape us and give us wisdom as a church, so that we might be more like Christ as we gather, as we are sent out and as we partner with others across the world...

Part of our TAC mission prayer

The Course Outline

1

Intro: “What is life to the full?”

2

Evidence: “Can I really trust the Bible?”

3

Sin: “What is wrong with the world?”

4

Peace: “Why did Jesus have to die?”

5

Hope: “What happens after this life?”

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additional resources
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Week 1

What is life to the full?



Readings: Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 & John 10:7-11



Getting into the bible

Why do you think the writer of Ecclesiastes considers everything "meaningless"? Do you think people today would agree with this (or even think about it)? Why / why not?

What does Jesus mean by "life to the full"?

If you want to explore further check out John 14:6-7, 17:3,20-23

How might you rewrite (or respond to) Ecclesiastes 2 as a Christian?



Joining their world and ours...

Tips from Sam Chan's "How to talk about Jesus without being that guy"

Tip 1: Merge Your Universes (Evangelism is a lifestyle change).

Modern people, in a post-Christian society like Australia don't tend to form beliefs in the way we imagine – by analysing information and forming objective conclusions. On the contrary, people need to see and experience things, in order for ideas to become 'believable'.

Tip 2: Go to their things (and they will go to your things).

If we're genuinely spending time with our non-Christian friends and investing in their lives, then the idea of inviting them to a church event won't feel so foreign. Our unbelieving friends must see our faith integrated with our life – and that this will make the claims of Christianity more believable – or at least less weird.



Share

What could you share with people from this week?

e.g. How might you prompt people to consider how much better life is with Jesus? (or the meaninglessness of life without him!)

- We can start by simply trying to understand the "good news" people are living for. What are their hopes for the good life? How does their life live up to that? What would they do differently?
- How does Jesus and the ultimate good news he brings speak into that?
- Reflect on how Jesus has brought you into the full life



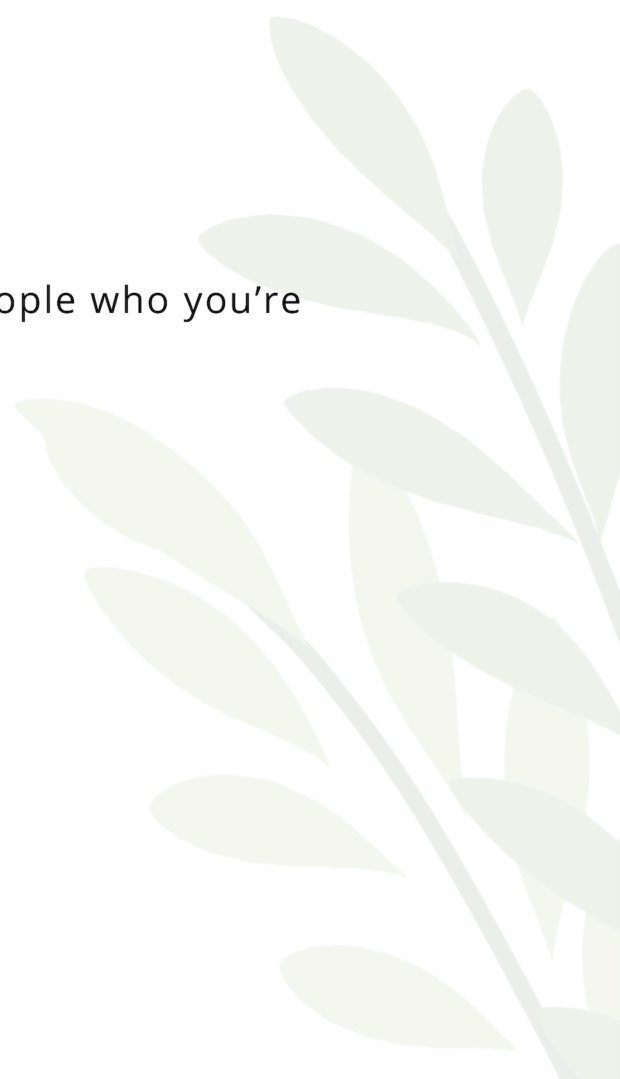
Testimony

Have someone from your group share their testimony and a particular verse/passage that means a lot to them. See the appendix to help you think about sharing.



Pray

Write down and share about 4 people who you're praying for to know Jesus.



Week 2

Can I trust the Bible?



Readings: Psalm 19:7-10, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-3



Getting into the Bible

What is the Bible?

How does our God reveal himself?

What does it mean that the Bible is God's word? And don't we also refer to Jesus as God's Word? (See John 1:1, 5:39)



Trusting the Bible

Consider the following list of reasons to trust the Bible. What do you find compelling or not?

- Fulfilled Prophecy (Matthew 1:22-23)
- Correlation with history (Luke 2:1-3, 2 Kings 25:8-10)
- Corespondance with my experience (Psalm 34:8)
- Eye witness accounts (1 John 1:1-3, 1 Cor 15:6)
- Embarrassing details (Luke 24:11, Mark 9:32)
- Apparent contradictions (Mark 15:25 vs. John 19:14-15)
- Self-authentication (2 Timothy 3:16)



Share

What habits of Bible reading have worked best for you?

What does the Bible mean to you?

How could you share this with someone who doesn't yet know Jesus?



Testimony

Have someone from your group share their testimony and a particular verse/passage that means a lot to them. See the appendix to help you think about sharing your story.



Pray

Who are the 4 people who you're praying for to know Jesus. Is there anything new to share about God's work in their life?



Week 3

What is wrong with the world?



**Readings: Luke 15:11-31,
also Romans 1:18-24, 3:11-12, Revelation 21:3-4**



Getting into the Bible

What is sin?

How does Luke 15 show the relational depth of disobedience / rejection of God?

How does God respond to our sin? What are the consequences of our sin?

How does this explain the way the world is?

How should we feel about our sin? (Romans 8:1, 2 Cor 7:10)



Tell a better story

The doctrine of sin has real explanatory power for the way the world is. The story arc of the Bible travels through the root of our sin and climaxes with sin and all its consequences being dealt with. This means Jesus offers a real hope that travels through our real predicament. The good news of the Bible reveals the fullness of God's grace and the reality of our need for Him.

Jesus told stories that intersected with people's experiences and needs in order to draw them closer to God.

Consider the following stories we can tell ourselves and others and discuss how you could use a few of these to offer real hope.

- Burdened by guilt and need forgiveness? Consider the story of Jesus and the tax collector who is justified by God (Luke 18:14).
- Burdened by shame and need restoration? Consider the story of Jesus cleansing and restoring a bleeding woman (Luke 8:48).
- Feel impure and need to be clean? Remember that Jesus will cleanse us and wash away our sins (Hebrews 9:14).



Scan this for
more examples
and resources
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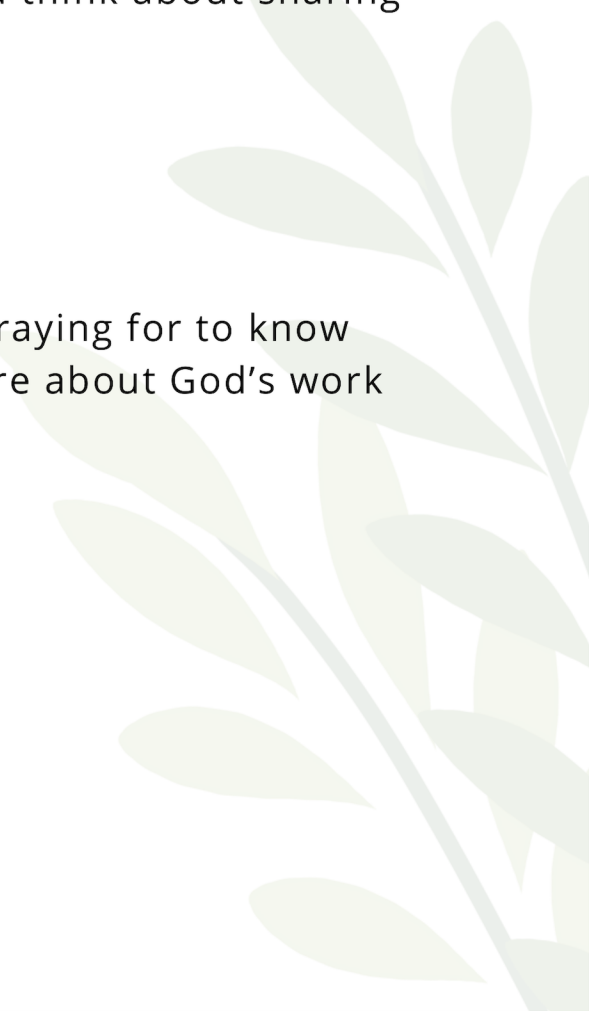
Testimony

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Pray

Who are the 4 people who you're praying for to know Jesus. Is there anything new to share about God's work in their life?



Week 4

Why did Jesus have to die?



Readings: Luke 23:13-49
also Romans 6:6-12, 1 Peter 3:18



Getting into the Bible

What stands out to you in the account of the crucifixion?

How is Jesus able to offer “life” to the criminal?

How does God deal with sin in Jesus? How do we now deal with sin in Jesus?

Why would we want to do any good if we're forgiven?

Quietly meditate on Jesus' death for you.

Is there something you need to repent of and seek God's forgiveness?



Longing for justice

What does the cross of Christ say about injustice?

How does Jesus give hope to those who have suffered injustice?

Practicing forgiveness

Why is it so hard to forgive?

What does our experience of practicing or receiving forgiveness reveal about the forgiveness Jesus offers?



Share

Is God prompting you to hold out the love of Jesus to yourself or another person in any way?



Testimony

Have someone from your group share their testimony and a particular verse/passage that means a lot to them. See the appendix to help you think about sharing.



Pray

Who are the 4 people who you're praying for to know Jesus. Is there anything new to share about God's work in their life?



Week 5

What happens after this life?



**Readings: John 11:23-27, Matthew 28:16-20
also 2 Corinthians 5:10-21**



Getting into the Bible

How does Martha process what Jesus says about the resurrection? What do you think life looked like for her after Lazarus was raised?

Why is our faith useless if Jesus didn't come back from the dead?

We will all face judgement in the end. How does the death AND the resurrection of Jesus give us certain hope?



New life!!

The resurrection life is not simply for us at the end! We are a new creation now! Consider the breadth of life in Jesus and how he gives us a new identity, purpose, community, relationships...

In what ways have you experienced the new life of Jesus?

In what ways are you still longing to experience new life in Jesus?



Share

Go back to week 3 and consider telling people a better story. Were you able to have a go at this? How does the risen Lord Jesus give us confidence to hold out the best story?



Testimony

Have someone from your group share their testimony and a particular verse/passage that means a lot to them. See the appendix to help you think about sharing your story.



Pray

Last week we saw how the criminal on the cross humbly acknowledged his sin and asked Jesus for life. Jesus saw his faith and promised him life in paradise with him.

Summing up these 5 weeks, write a prayer as a group responding to Jesus in faith and repentance to accept the gift of life that He offers us.

Pray that God would allow you to lead someone to pray this prayer with those God has put on your heart.

Appendix: How to share your testimony

Your story is His story

Your story — regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” you think it is — is a story about God’s character. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ and changed your life as a result.

The difference Jesus has made to your life

Whether you have always known Jesus or come to faith at a particular moment we can all share the difference Jesus has made to our life. It might help to:

- Identify a theme that has been significant in your life or what you used to live for.
- What have you found most compelling about Jesus? OR why did you decide to follow Jesus? It is often helpful to point to a verse/passage specifically here to help people see Jesus as the hero.
- What does life look like now in following Jesus?

A (gentle) challenge

- Finish with “have you ever thought about following Jesus” or “what do you find compelling about Jesus”?

Other tips:

- Keep it short and have versions of it that can fit in conversation
- Be ready! (1 Peter 3:15-16)

