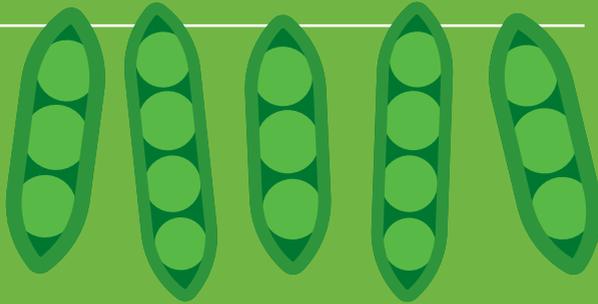


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3

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# PATH OF DISCIPLES



Four lessons on  
Serving God



**© Guy and Jocelyn Pembroke 2017**

Members of King's Church Edinburgh where POD began

[kingschurchedinburgh.org](http://kingschurchedinburgh.org)

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**Edinburgh - 2025**

**V.4.0**

Scripture quotations taken from THE HOLY BIBLE,  
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# Path of Disciples 3

## Introduction

POD is a fun and practical way to learn with others what it means to have Jesus as a firm foundation for life, to walk with God and to serve Him.

It is good to complete POD 1 and 2 before starting POD 3.

### POD 1 and POD 2 – A Summary

#### **POD 1** Come and you will see the Lord and Saviour (John 1:39)

**POD 1** - A person needs to be open to learning to follow Jesus. We lay a foundation teaching the good news of Jesus and train people so that they in turn can disciple others. We lead them to understand that God is gracious towards each of us. He calls us to Himself with open arms despite the ways we have lived. We contrast the depths of our downfall with the wonder of knowing God. We then present a full panorama of Christ the King from when He was eternally with the Father to the day He will return. We consider how God wants us to respond to his rescue plan and indeed to the King Himself and so receive assurance of salvation.

#### **POD 2** Come and walk with God (Matthew 4:19)

**POD 2** - The disciple has completed POD 1, understood the good news of Jesus and trusts Him as their Lord and Saviour. They are open to learning to walk with God and his people, the church. We lead those we are discipling to be filled with the Spirit, to learn to pray through speaking and listening to our Father, to be hungry for the word of God and to worship. We teach baptism and the command to disciple others through representing Christ in life and witness and deeds of power. We show the importance of the church in God's plans and the need to encourage one another under godly leadership.



## Who is POD 3 for?

POD 3 is for those who have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus and are open to continue learning as they serve God.

## What is POD 3 about?

Now that we have Jesus as the firm foundation of our lives and are walking with God, we can be better equipped to serve Him and to do this together as church. Through four practical lessons, we will see that the healthy Christian life is lived in a growing relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, a life that gives God all the glory as we serve others as part of the church. These lessons are:

1. **Serving in Christ**
2. **Serving in the Spirit and in truth**
3. **Serving with our Father's resources**
4. **Serving together with spiritual gifts**

We encourage you to prepare for each lesson beforehand by reading the verses and writing a response to each question. The act of writing clarifies your thinking and helps you to remember what God teaches you. One or two thoughtful sentences for each question is appropriate.

When you meet together you will find that each lesson will take a little longer than the lessons of POD 2. As you digest this spiritual food, God will strengthen you in serving others.

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.”*

**Romans 12:1**

# 1 Serving in Christ

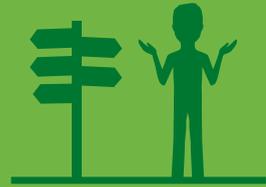
## A. Introduction

Solomon said “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Proverbs 4:23. The condition of our heart is critical when serving God and others. We will see how, in Christ, we can develop attitudes which contribute to a healthy serving culture, a culture which is within reach when we accept how God has revealed Himself in Christ. God responds to other worldviews or common ways of thinking and in Christ provides a better way - Himself - to meet the deepest longings of our hearts.

A **Mindset** is presented in each lesson to explore some common ways of thinking of those who do not have the mind of Christ. There may be some overlap in the four Mindsets but each is intended to stand alone. They show different fictional people expressing how they see life. Let’s now look at the first example of those common ways of thinking.

## Mindset 1.

# “I want to be somebody”



“I want to make something of my life. I want to find purpose and meaning. So I set goals for my life and then I try to focus on achieving them through working hard for me and my family. You’ve got to put the family first haven’t you?”

But then I wonder how’s it going? I feel ok most of the time but I hope one day I will be truly content. For the time being, I’m just doing what I can to reach that point. I have this constant feeling of ‘I will change and become better’ in many areas of my life, however I rarely follow through and bring about these changes I desire. I find this discouraging and get jealous easily when I see people who ‘have it all together’.

In my more lucid moments, I realise my time is getting shorter and there remains that nagging doubt .... What if I don’t make it? What if my life never really comes to anything? Will anyone even remember me when I’m gone? I don’t really like to think of that.”

**How would you describe this way of thinking?**

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**Do you see any of this mindset in your own life? In what ways?**

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*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**Romans 12:2**

*“Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”*

**Philippians 2:5**

We have believed the good news of God’s grace, the Gospel of a King who has completed his work in dying for us. He has fully accepted us as his sons and daughters and we can cease our restless striving and be at peace in his love. As we experience the compelling power of the love of Jesus, our Father frees us from the grip of previous longings, purifies our attitudes and makes us ready to serve others. In this first lesson we will consider the results of the love of Jesus, then our response to his love and finally, our rest in his love.

**Read Luke 10:38-42**

**What most stands out for you just now in this account?**

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**Aim of Lesson 1:** To choose to live the radical Christian life made possible by the love of Jesus.

## B. The results of the love of Jesus

Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-5

### 1. What has God given us through faith in Christ?

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For further reflection of the breadth of what Jesus has achieved, consider the five Pictures of God's salvation on page 37.

1 John 2:15-17; 5:18

### 2. As we come to appreciate all that God has done for us, what will we be freed from?

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If you consider that you would benefit from a separate meeting for prayer and encouragement to work through areas of life where you need God's freedom, please mention this to your POD leader or to one of the church leaders at any stage.

1 John 4:19; 5:3-4

### 3. As we appreciate the love of Christ, what can we expect?

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**“The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection [for sin] is by the expulsive power of a new one [the love of Christ]”** Thomas Chalmers.

Let’s now consider how this compelling love not only sets us free from our old way of life but also releases us to serve in a new way.

## C. Our response to the love of Jesus

Luke 9:23-25; Matthew 10:37-38

**4. What does Christ require of those who would be his disciples?**

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**What does that mean for you in your life?**

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**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”** Jim Elliot.

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

**5. What changes of attitude might disciples of Christ expect to see within themselves?**

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*“It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”*

Philippians 2:13

## D. Our rest in the love of Jesus

We have seen the cost of commitment to Christ; let's now see how we rest in Him. In comparison with our previous way of life, He offers us a better, lighter and more glorious load. When we welcome his invitation, we will find true rest and peace.

Hebrews 4:1-3, 9-10

### 6. How can we leave behind the restlessness of striving to please God?

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The rest God offers is far greater than the kind of chilled life that gives little attention to prioritizing God's kingship. In fact, immediately after offering rest to people, Jesus spoke to them about taking up his burden and learning from Him, Matthew 11:28-30. He physically carried a cross. We see in the book of Acts that many of the early disciples suffered and we will suffer in various ways as his disciples.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

### 7. What comfort is there for those who suffer as disciples of Jesus?

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## E. The Lord Jesus sends us

In each lesson of POD 3, we close by looking beyond ourselves.

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

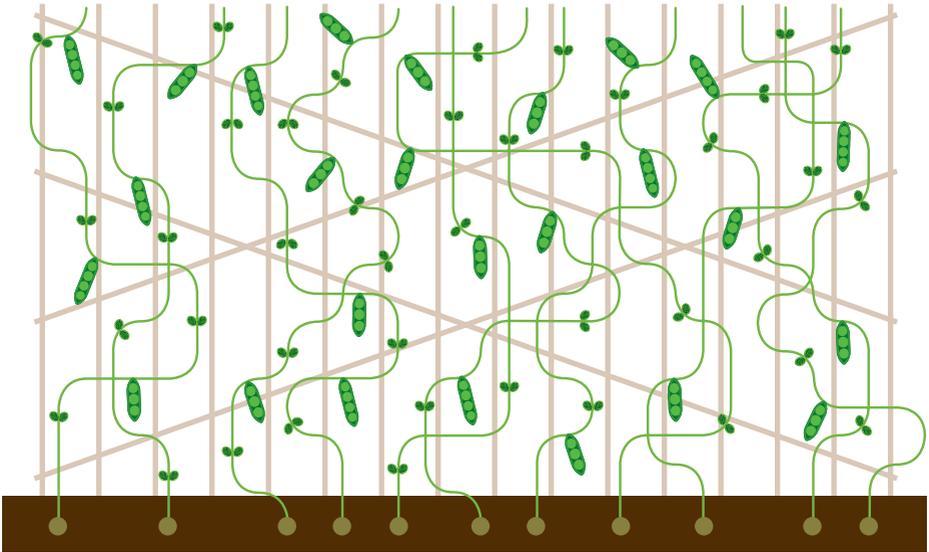
John 20:21

We have good news for those who “want to be somebody” (Mindset 1). They suffer with the disease of restlessness, unbelief, striving and discontentment. Let us share the good news of the love of Jesus, humbly and with confident joy.

## F. For the week ahead

### Growing disciples

A gardener knows the benefits of good soil for sowing peas. We have been placed in good soil. Our lives are rooted in the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:17. We will grow healthily when we rest, by faith, in His love.



As we learn more in POD 3 about serving God, we want to continue to serve out of a growing walk with God, cultivated through nourishing our hearts daily. We started to see in POD 2 that God has provided means of grace for this purpose, for example, worship, giving, listening prayer, meditation on Scripture, all in addition to acts of serving one another.

As a trellis helps peas sown in good soil to grow and bear fruit, so the practice of these means of grace will be used by God to produce fruit in us. Each lesson will propose one of those means of grace. Here’s the first one:

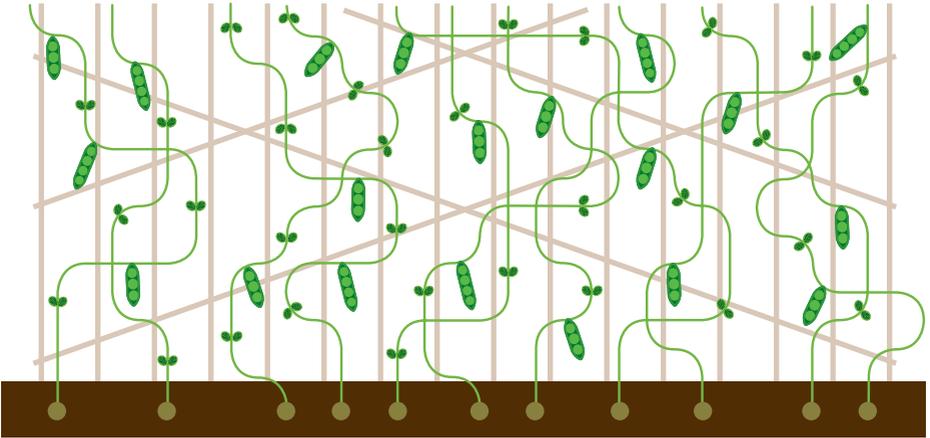
### Nurturing your heart 1

Develop a daily time of expressed worship (singing, praying, listening, writing) focusing on the love of Jesus.



## 2 Serving in the Spirit and in truth

### A. Recap and review



Read your prayer of gratitude (on previous page).

**We want to develop a close walk with God as we serve. How have you been enjoying worshipping Jesus for his love? [Nurturing your heart 1]**

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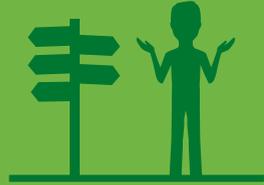
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### B. Introduction

We've seen how essential it is to be rooted in the love of Christ. But how can we know what kind of service God expects and even then, how can we deliver that kind of service? We will see that God sets out high standards in his Word. Then we can humbly accept our need to rely on the Spirit of God who alone produces a life of heartfelt obedience. God's love, poured into our hearts by the Spirit, enables us to serve God and others.

Here is the second example of a common way of thinking.

## Mindset 2. “I lead my own life”



“I lead my own life. I am the captain. I am in control! I seek to do the right thing for me, but when it comes to others, I usually don’t get involved and mind my own business. Some people have strong views on how others live their lives, but it’s the 21st century now, each to their own, live and let live is what I say. Who am I to judge the way others live anyway? As long as it doesn’t interfere with my life.

And I live an honest life, I consider myself a good person, as good as the next person, if not better!

I’m quite spiritual, but then I always have been. You see I respect all beliefs. I’m on my own spiritual journey. I never ask for help and really don’t like it when people try to tell me how to change. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it! I certainly don’t need any religion to tell me how I should live.”

**How would you describe this way of thinking?**

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**Do you see any of this mindset in your own life? In what ways?**

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The desire to live our own way is the root of all sin. In contrast to this way of thinking, God has revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, his clear and glorious standards in the Bible. Jesus humbly lived out God's standards of love. We have believed the truth of God's good news that Christ died to forgive us for our selfishness, and that God confirmed this through powerfully raising Him to life. We admit that living a new life and loving others as Jesus did is impossible for us. However, God has graciously given us the desire and the power to love with integrity, through the Holy Spirit.

**Read Galatians 2:20 – 3:5**

**Which speaks more directly to you: Paul's attitude to his own life or his attitude to his readers? Why?**

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**Aim of Lesson 2:** To choose to rely on the Spirit of God who produces a life of loving and pure obedience.

## **C. God's loving standards in the Word**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**1. What is Jesus' attitude to the written word of God?**

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**How is your heart attitude to the Bible developing?**

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*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**2. What does it mean to love as God requires?**

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**D. Life in the Spirit**

**Read Romans 8:1-9**

In Romans 8:1-4 Paul describes how the Holy Spirit has set us free from sin through the sacrifice of Jesus, in order that God’s standards might be seen in our transformed and holy lives. Paul then goes on to describe two mindsets.

**Romans 8:5-9**

**3. Why can we now live as God expects instead of following the norm of sin and death?**

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Consider again the new life God has brought you into, as you continue to reflect on the five Pictures of God’s Salvation on page 37.

**Can you give a practical example of a recent change in your character which you have seen when serving others?**

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**1 Corinthians 6:15-20**

**4. Why is sexual sin, or any sin, out of place for us?**

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**Galatians 5:24-26**

**5. How can we maintain a Spirit-controlled attitude towards others?**

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Our relationship with the Spirit of Christ is key to serving like Christ who said:

*“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*

**John 10:27**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-22**

**6. How does the Spirit teach us God’s will?**

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Paul taught “Pray continually”. “Sometimes, in the name of living under grace we have not embraced the necessary discipline to develop a prayer life and prove its actual pragmatic worth either individually, or as praying churches” Terry Virgo.

Living God’s way - a path of dependence - is simply better than being self-reliant.

## E. Serving with love - the fruit of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

**7. Why do you think this instruction on loving others is at the centre of teaching on serving with spiritual gifts?**

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## F. The Spirit sends us

We look beyond ourselves and the church.

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.”*

**Acts 1:8**

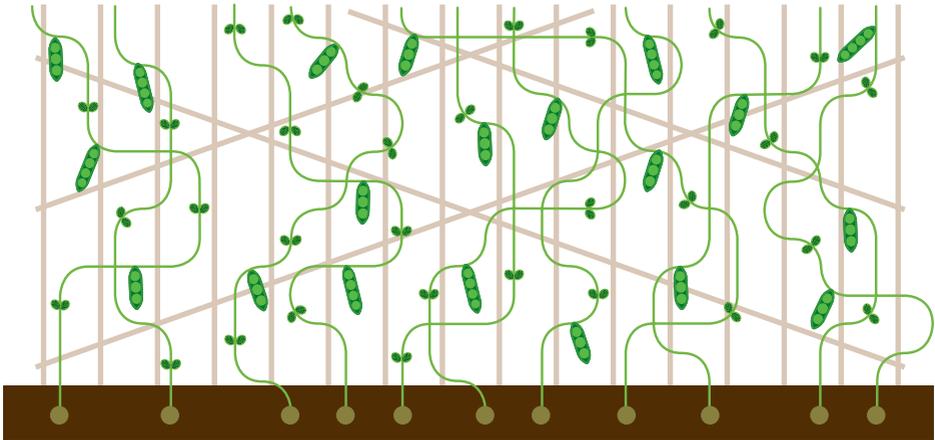
We have good news for those who want to “lead their own life” (Mindset 2). They suffer with the disease of being too proud to admit that they fall short of God’s standards and that they need God’s life-giving Spirit. Let us keep in step with the Spirit as we share with them the good news, tenderly and without hypocrisy. This act of testifying to others about Christ is a key way that we love others with the enabling of the Spirit so that they too can know Him and serve in the Spirit and in truth.

Pause and pray for one another that the Spirit will control each and every area of your lives.

## The life that pleases God

We honour	Not ourselves	But God, and where we see his enabling grace in others
We rely	Not on our own efforts	But on God through faith
We focus	Not on the sins we have repented of	But on what Christ has done and what the Spirit desires
We experience God's help	Not only yesterday	But today by walking with Him
We serve God	Not just seeing today as a practice run for tomorrow	Today with all we are

### G. For the week ahead



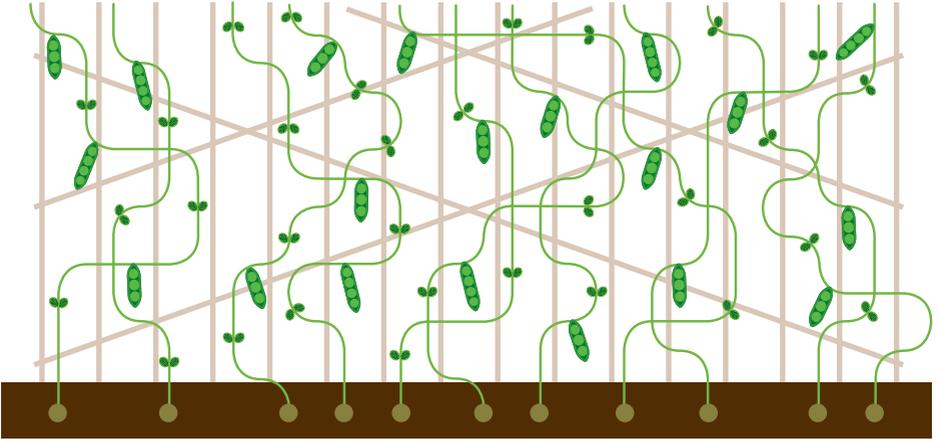
#### Nurturing your heart 2

Develop a daily time of listening to the Spirit.



# 3 Serving with our Father's resources

## A. Recap and review



Read your prayer of dependence (on previous page).

**As we continue to encourage each other to meet daily with God, how have you combined worshipping God with listening to Him? [Nurturing your heart 2]**

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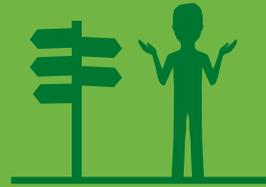
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## B. Introduction

We have seen how we serve God out of gratitude for the love of Christ. Then we considered how his Word and the Spirit instruct us and enable us to serve with love. Now we will see the need to change our lifestyle in a way that will permit us to serve God sacrificially.

Let's consider the next example of a common way of thinking.

### Mindset 3. “I want to have fun”



“Live fast, you only live once! I want to have as much fun as I can so I’m trying to get a promotion at work or a better paying job so that I can afford a great life. My last holiday was a bit of a letdown. We stayed in a 3 star hotel but it was right next to a busy road and the beach was a 30 minute walk away. Ever since I got back home, I’ve been on the lookout for that better holiday. Having something like an exciting holiday to look forward to helps me cope with the drag of day to day life. It’s what gets me out of bed in the morning.

Back home, I have to keep up with the times. I recently bought a new phone. I can’t really afford it but it’s worth it. I want my place to be fitted out with more modern equipment, then I’ll feel more at ease to have friends round to have a party. Speaking of inviting people round, can I even be bothered with the hassle? ... I think I just need a break with new experiences; perhaps even meet someone who can spice my life up, nothing serious, of course, just a bit of fun, no strings attached - the idea of commitment scares me. But meeting someone who will treat me right and show me a good time would be great. As long as I’m happy!

You see I work hard and I play hard so I deserve some fun. Anyway, I think I’ll go shopping this weekend, maybe treat myself. You see, I need to start thinking about myself a bit more. I want to be fulfilled and have a good life. Life’s been rubbish for a while, I feel a bit empty and I just want to be happy. After all, everyone’s got the right to have a bit of fun, haven’t they?”

**How would you describe this way of thinking?**

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**Do you see any of this mindset in your own life? In what ways?**

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In contrast to this way of thinking, our heavenly Father teaches us to live simply and to be content with what He gives us, 1 Timothy 6:6-8. Pause for a moment to think about the lifestyle Jesus chose.

“Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposition in every condition.” Jeremiah Burroughs.

We recognise God trusting us with resources as his stewards and so we are ready to serve God and others. When we are generous towards others with time and money, we imitate Christ, who said of Himself:

*“Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Mark 10:45**

**Read Luke 16:10-13; 19:11-27**

On many occasions Jesus spoke of the importance of handling money well.

**What stands out for you just now in the parable in Luke 19:11-27?**

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**Aim of Lesson 3:** To choose to be faithful managers of the Father’s resources.

## C. God's world and his kingdom

Psalm 24:1-2

1. How does this affect your thinking about your work, possessions and life?

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What makes us think our life is our own?

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Matthew 6:31-33; 13:44-46

2. What enables us to put God first?

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## D. Managers of God's resources

Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21

3. Why is our use of money so critical?

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Pause to ask the Spirit to reveal any poor uses of money.

**2 Corinthians 8:9; 8:1-5**

**4. How did the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ affect their financial giving?**

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*“Now about the collection for the Lord’s people ... on the first day of the week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income”*

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

**In the light of these extracts from Paul’s letters to the church in Corinth, how will you contribute financially to serve others?**

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**1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Timothy 5:16-18**

**5. What specific responsibilities do we have as members of the church?**

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**Luke 14:12-14; 1 Peter 4:8-9**

**6. How can you practice hospitality as a way of serving others?**

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## E. Managers of the time God gives us

In a course on serving God, it is also vital that we learn to manage our time.

**Genesis 1:27, 1:31 – 2:3**

**7. How can we imitate God's use of time?**

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**Psalm 90:10,12**

**8. Why do we need to invest our time well?**

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The book of Proverbs gives much practical teaching on living wisely but let's look at two passages from the New Testament that illustrate the need for wisdom in our use of time, in this case, in our attitudes to our health.

**3 John 1:2; 1 Timothy 4:8**

**9. As examples, how do these passages affect your use of time?**

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Ask the Spirit to reveal any poor uses of time. The following verse encourages us to be honest.

*“Those who conceal their sins do not prosper but those who confess and renounce them find mercy.”*

**Proverbs 28:13**

Note any poor uses of time here:

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We can be thankful for God's generosity in giving us both the joy of his Fatherly provision and the responsibility of being managers in the family business, the expansion of his kingdom.

## F. The Father sends us

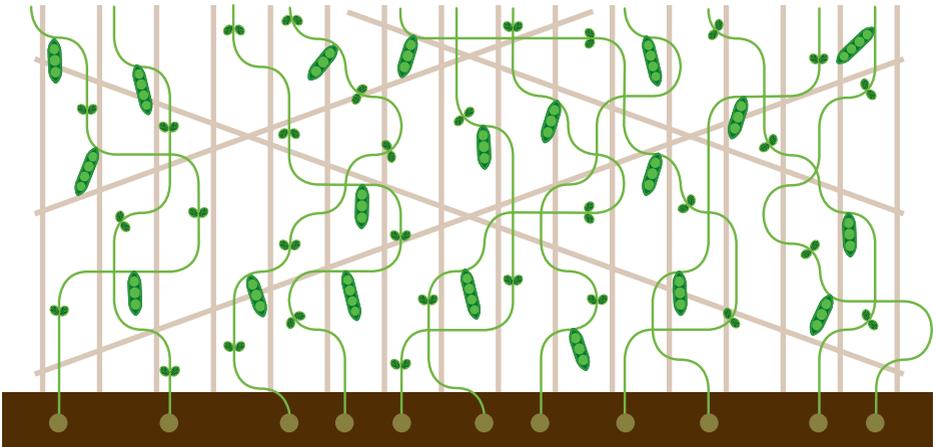
We look beyond ourselves to serve others with the Father's resources.

*"The old has gone, the new is here. All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."*

### 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

We have good news for those who want to "have fun" and yet are weighed down with the disease of being consumers rather than givers, who are concerned more for their own interests than God's and who, in the pursuit of pleasure, have little thought for the needs of others (Mindset 3). We can demonstrate the good news of our generous heavenly Father who gave his one and only Son. We do this through adopting a lifestyle that is distinctively generous, in our pursuit of justice for those who need compassion. Living life God's way is a radical exciting adventure of faith, full of fun and fulfillment.

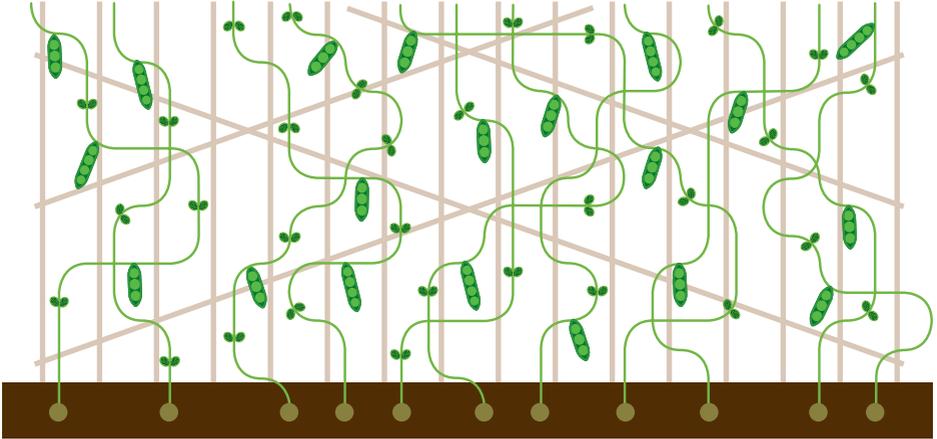
## G. For the week ahead





# 4 Serving together with spiritual gifts

## A. Recap and review



Read your prayer of giving yourself to God (on previous page).

**As we align ourselves with God's purposes, how did you find it helpful to reflect on your use of time or money? [Nurturing your heart 3]**

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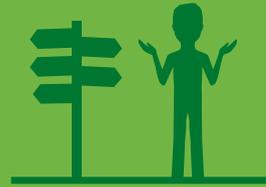
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## B. Introduction

With minds at rest in the love of Christ, hearts empowered by the Spirit, and resources given over to the kingdom of God, we are in a good position to serve others using the gifts, skills and abilities that God has given us. All that we have received is by grace; it is not a reward for good behaviour.

Let's consider the final example of a common way of thinking.

## Mindset 4. “The ultimate one man show”



“I’ve served in the community as long as I can remember, training the kids at the local football club but I’m thinking this might be my last season. Part of the problem is that people just take me for granted. I’ve been slaving away, setting up early and waiting ‘til the end to pack up, and nobody ever thanks me.

Things started to go wrong when the manager suggested that I train up Jo to serve alongside me. I didn’t want another person serving with me. I’ve found that Jo didn’t want to do things the same way I do. Not that things have to be done my way, you know, but I like to think that after all this time I’ve learned a thing or two. I’d rather avoid the confrontation though. Yes I know Jo is fitter than I am and gets on well with the kids, but Jo’s not reliable like me – hasn’t turned up in January. No, I don’t know why, I’m not that bothered if I’m really honest. At least I’ll be able to get on with things my way. I wish I could be a combination Jo-and-me, that would be the ultimate one man show.

The training sessions will probably stop when I go. Then they’ll know how much they needed me. Seems a shame though, after all this time.

I thought they would have at least mentioned me at the Christmas party but they seemed to give all the credit to Jo. He even got invited to the front to be thanked by the manager. Why should Jo get all the credit for what I have built up all these years? Not that I’m bitter - maybe Jo’s the kind of person who fits the mould. I guess I’m a bit of a push-over really. I like the public shout out. When people appreciate me for my service I feel encouraged, I don’t get much encouragement elsewhere, my wife and kids just take me for granted.”

**How would you describe this way of thinking?**

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**Do you see any of this mindset in your own life? In what ways?**

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In contrast to this way of thinking, Francis Chan has written “Becoming a Christian is a complete and total surrender of your own desires and flesh to a higher purpose of serving God’s glory. It means you die to yourself and put on Christ.”

Furthermore, God has called us to serve as part of a community, the church. “God’s intention was not merely to save individuals but to create a new community, a new people for his glory.” Thomas Schreiner. Serving with others regularly and frequently helps us to die to ourselves.

We have a shared expectation of seeing the glory of our King; this is something worth living (and dying) for.

**Read Mark 4:24-32**

**As you read this, what strikes you about God’s activity in the world?**

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**Aim of Lesson 4:** To choose to honour and develop one another’s abilities and gifts in serving others, for God’s glory.

## C. God's purpose in giving gifts

"God is forming a people that embodies the good news of the kingdom for the sake of the world." Michael Goheen.

**Ephesians 4:10-13**

**1. How can this people (the church) be built up?**

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**Ephesians 4:14-16**

**2. Paul writes of the entire body of Christ. As we apply his teaching, what does a maturing congregation look like?**

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## D. Identifying spiritual gifts

**Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

The following list is not exhaustive - and the precise terms will depend on which Bible translation you use - but this list is intended as a summary:

- Apostle, Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:29
- Prophet / prophesying, Ephesians 4:11 / Romans 12:6
- Evangelist, Ephesians 4:11
- Shepherd, Ephesians 4:11
- Teacher / teaching, Ephesians 4:11 / Romans 12:7
- Serving, Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28
- Encouraging, Romans 12:8
- Giving, Romans 12:8

- Showing mercy, Romans 12:8
- Leading, Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28
- Bringing a message of wisdom, 1 Corinthians 12:8
- Bringing a word of knowledge, 1 Corinthians 12:8
- Faith, 1 Corinthians 12:9
- Healing, 1 Corinthians 12:9
- Miraculous powers, 1 Corinthians 12:10
- Distinguishing between spirits, 1 Corinthians 12:10
- Speaking in tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:10
- Interpretation of tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:10

**Romans 12:3**

**3. In what areas do mature Christians who know you well and have seen you serve, consider you are gifted? [You may need to ask one or two people. This is all about realizing what God has given you by his grace]**

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**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

**4. Which of these manifestations of the Spirit have you experienced?**

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**Are there other skills and abilities God has given you to dedicate to the expansion of his kingdom?**

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## E. Receiving and using gifts

In Christ we are a body of many parts. God has distributed gifts amongst his people, for the common good, so that we might all grow through serving together. Look both for opportunities to serve and for opportunities for others to serve: as part of a serving team in the church or community, by participating in a small group, and by encouraging each other on Sundays or other occasions.

We serve others using the gifts God has given us and we also receive from Him through the gifts of others. God has placed us together in the body of Christ because we need each other.

1 Corinthians 14:1, 26

**5. What attitude can we cultivate towards spiritual gifts?**

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**Which gifts are you pursuing for the building up of the church?**

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1 Timothy 4:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Corinthians 15:58

**6. What can hinder some from serving?**

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**Is there anything holding you back from fully serving God as He wants?**

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**1 Peter 4:10-11**

**7. Why do you want to serve?**

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**In what areas do you want to serve (or continue to serve)?**

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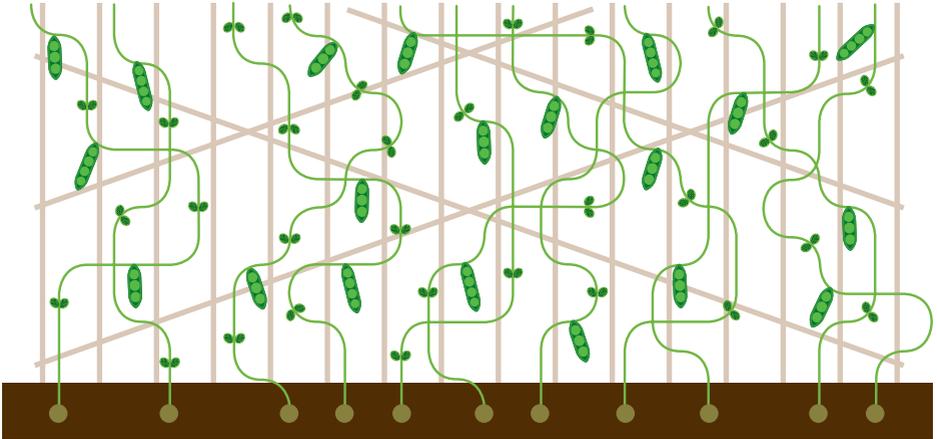
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As a church we draw nourishment from God's eternal purpose for his kingdom and his graciousness in equipping us with gifts and abilities to see his kingdom relentlessly advance.

We have good news for those who are ensnared in "the ultimate one man show" and who are weighed down with the disease of discouragement, of isolation and of feeling overlooked and rejected (Mindset 4). In gratefully accepting the area of service God has given us, let us demonstrate the good news that God is building a loving church that overflows with hope in its service to others.

## F. To close this lesson



### Nurturing your heart 4

Reflect on how you can see your gift(s) develop for the good of others.

**8. How would you sum up your attitude to yourself, to others and to God in the past month?**

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**9. How could you continue to develop a greater concern for others and a greater devotion to God as you move forward?**

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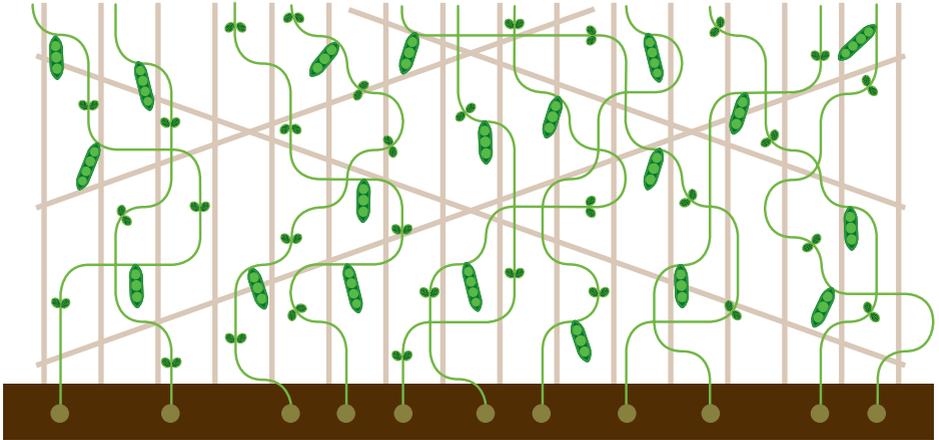
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## Afterword



One pea needs to die so that many peas are produced. Spiritually we understand that death is a necessary prelude to resurrection. When Jesus requires those who would be his disciples to take up their cross, He is inviting them to die - to die to their own plans in order to follow Him and have life.

*“Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’”*

### Mark 8:35

The Lord Jesus Christ gives encouragement to those of us who, after hearing this word “**must deny themselves**”, accept his invitation to be his disciples:

*“Unless a kernel of grain falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Those who love their life will lose it, while those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”*

### John 12:24-26

We need to encourage each other in Christian friendship as we serve in the church and the community. One means to encourage each other is **Running Partners** - you can contact [POD@pathofdisciples.org](mailto:POD@pathofdisciples.org) for details of how these mini-groups of three people function.

# Five pictures of God's salvation

See the note at the foot of this page

Concept	Location	Foretaste in the Old Testament	God	Without Christ we are	The blood of Christ	In Christ we are
<b>Reconciliation</b> Romans 5:11	Home	God's gracious question Genesis 3:8-9	Loving Father and Creator	Ashamed Enemies of God	Removes the cause of hostility	Adopted sons (theirs), led by the Spirit and at peace, ambassadors of Christ
<b>Glory</b> Romans 5:2	Battlefield	The crushing of the serpent Genesis 3:15	Sovereign king	Fearful Captives of Satan	The decisive victory blow	Victorious, gifted soldiers of the kingdom of God
<b>Justification</b> Romans 3:24	Law court	Abram's faith Genesis 15:5-6	Just judge	Guilty condemned lawbreakers	The legal punishment	Forgiven, justified, living God's way, in a new covenant
<b>Redemption</b> Romans 3:24	Marketplace	The Passover Exodus 12	Compassionate owner	Hopeless slaves	The price of freedom	Servants of God, free from the power of sin and the fear of death
<b>Atonement</b> Romans 3:25	Tabernacle	The sacrifice of animals Leviticus 16:3-22	Zealous and holy	Unclean sinners	A sacrificial offering	Saints, clean and set apart for God as priests, reflecting his holy presence

**To understand this table:** As you read each picture from left to right, you will see the home describes family relationships; the battlefield uses military terms including the glory of victory; the law court uses legal words; the marketplace uses commercial words (slaves were treated as products that were bought and sold in the Roman world); the tabernacle uses religious words. For further study, consider the elaboration of each picture in Romans 8.



# suggested reading

Selected by Luke Davydaitis

## These books can help you grow in God:

- *A Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster. A classic exploring spiritual disciplines as means of grace.
- *A Long Obedience in The Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson. This book explores key aspects of Christian practice that we need to make a habit of, such as worship, service, and repentance. It also helps us to think deeply about God's nature and character.
- *Union With Christ*, Rankin Wilbourne. The apostle Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" more than any other to describe who and what a Christian is, so this book looks at what that means and how this transforms our relationship with God and how we live our lives.
- *All That's Good*, Hannah Anderson. A wise guide to making good decisions in our daily lives by seeking out what God's best is.

## These resources can help you with Bible memorisation:

- *An Approach to Extended Memorization of Scripture*, Andrew M. Davis
- Websites providing memorisation encouragement and resources include [www.fighterverses.com](http://www.fighterverses.com) and [www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system](http://www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system).

## These books can help you with understanding the Sabbath:

- *The Rest of God*, Mark Buchanan. An invitation to really enjoy Sabbath rest
- *Sabbath As Resistance*, Walter Brueggemann. A provocative read which challenges us to see our behaviour and our culture through the lens of God's desire for us to rest.

### **These books can help you learn more about the Holy Spirit:**

- *Receiving the Holy Spirit and His Gifts*, Terry Virgo and Phil Rogers. A short study guide to understand who the Holy Spirit is and how we can be filled with Him and exercise the gifts He wants to give us.
- *Joy Unspeakable*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones. One of the Twentieth Century's greatest preachers argues strongly for a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, separate from our conversion.

### **Studying Theology:**

- *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem. An accessible introduction that informs the mind and stirs the heart.

### **This book will help you to have a vision for making disciples:**

- *Heromaker*, Dave Ferguson and Warren Bird. This practical book teaches principles about multiplication through discipling and leading networks.

**For ease of reference, we are also including the suggested reading lists from POD 1 and POD 2**



# suggested reading

Selected by Luke Davydaitis

## **These books can help you with questions about the truth of Christianity:**

- *Questions of Life*, Nicky Gumbel. Based on the Alpha Course, this book answers 15 key questions about Christianity.
- *If God, Then What?*, Andrew Wilson. Conversational-style and fast-paced book that considers some of the deepest questions and how they point us towards God.
- *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller. Addresses the main objections people have to Christianity and presents some of the evidence that it is true.

## **These books can help you with questions about God:**

- *The Prodigal God*, Timothy Keller. Considers the two wrong ways to approach God, and how He wants us to know Him.
- *The Good God*, Michael Reeves. An excellent and rich but brief examination of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- *Christ Our Life*, Michael Reeves. Also brief but also deep, looking at what Jesus has done for us.

## **These books can help you with how God rescues us, and our new life in Him:**

- *God's Lavish Grace*, Terry Virgo. A short book that explains what the Bible teaches about God's acceptance of us and love for us.
- *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, Philip Yancey. Lots of personal stories of how there's nothing we can do to make God love us more, or less.
- *Reclaiming Adoption*, ed. Dan Cruver. Adoption is an important term for understanding what God has done for us and how He relates to us. This brief book gives lots of detail for appreciating this.



# suggested reading

Selected by Luke Davydaitis

## **These books can help you with trusting and reading the Bible:**

- *Why Trust the Bible?*, Amy Orr-Ewing. Addresses common questions about whether the Bible should and can be believed.
- *How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart. Systematic guide to the different types of writings in the Bible.

## **These books can help you with learning about the Holy Spirit:**

- *Everyday Supernatural*, Mike Pilavachi & Andy Croft. Very friendly and amusing, with stories of God's power at work today and how you can experience this for yourself.
- *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Jack Deere. A thorough treatment of how the Bible encourages us to receive the Holy Spirit today.

## **These books can help you learn to pray and worship:**

- *A Praying Life*, Paul E. Miller. Containing the author's story of parenting a child with learning difficulties, and learning to pray as he does so.
- *Enjoy Your Prayer Life*, Michael Reeves. A very short inspiration to help you relax and actually pray.
- *None Like Him*, Jen Wilkin. Looking at ten unique characteristics of God to help us worship Him more deeply and understand ourselves more accurately.

## **These books can help you with understanding why church is so important:**

- *What On Earth is the Church For?*, David Devenish. Explaining God's purposes for the church, with stories from his own experience as a church leader.
- *The Spirit-Filled Church*, Terry Virgo. Terry is the founder of Newfrontiers, so this book will help you understand these churches.

OPEN TO LEARN?

3. SERVING GOD

1. GOD'S GOOD NEWS

2. WALKING WITH GOD



**DISCIPLES: LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS**