



TERM 4, 2024

DNA BOOKLET

Songs for the Heart - Psalms series

Therefore, I Urge You - Romans 12 series

Vision Sunday (study available then)

Hidden Christmas - Advent Series

HOW TO BE GROWING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

IN COMMUNITY

It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".



WORD TO LIFE

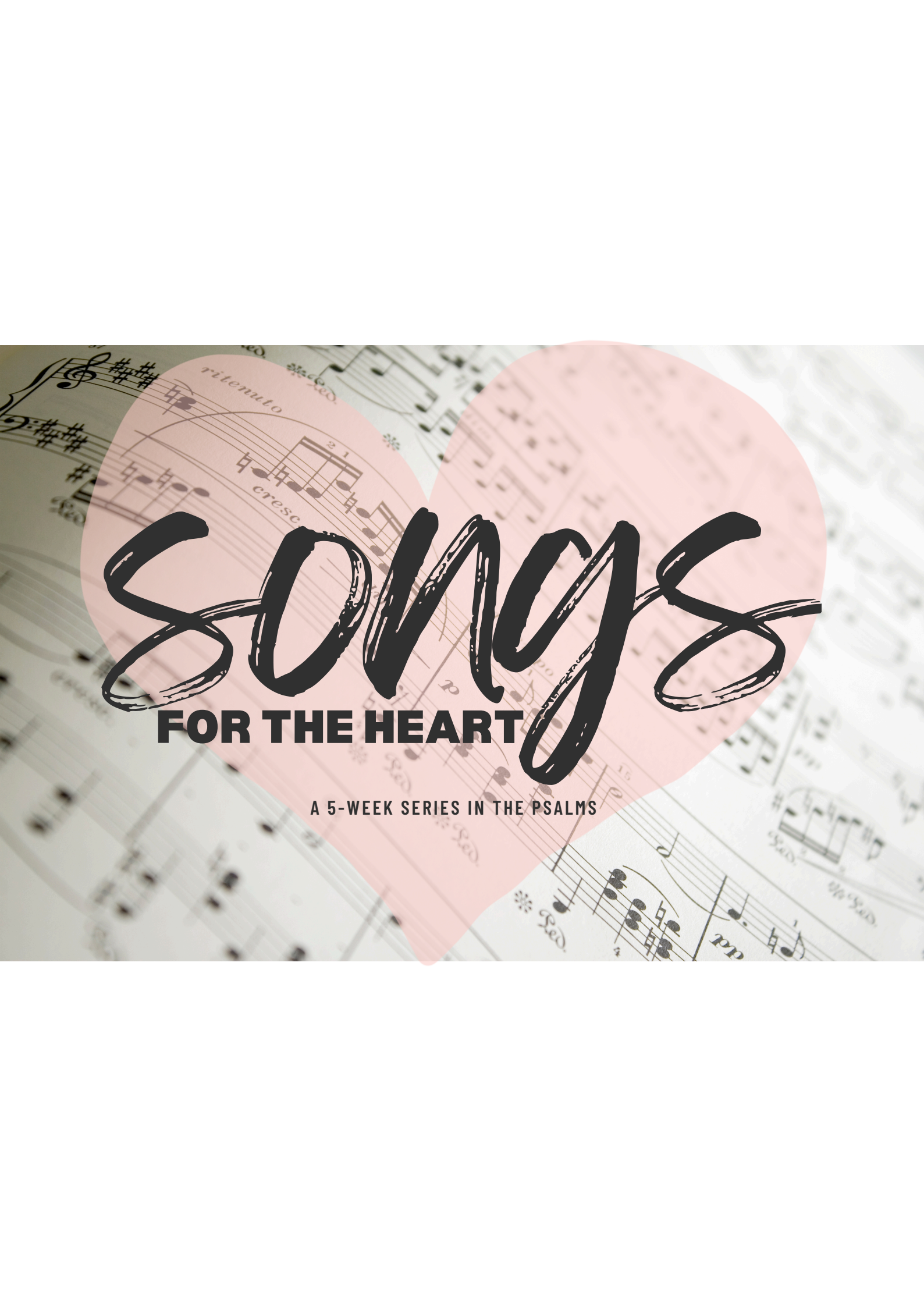
When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!



LIFE TO WORD

The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!



The background of the image is a blurred musical score with various notes, clefs, and dynamic markings like 'ritenuto' and 'cresc'. A large, semi-transparent pink heart is centered over the page. The word 'songs' is written in a large, black, cursive script across the heart, with 'FOR THE HEART' in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font directly below it.

songs

FOR THE HEART

A 5-WEEK SERIES IN THE PSALMS

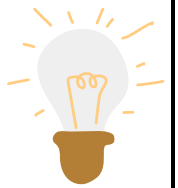
01

Pray and ask God to speak to each of you through his Word. Then read

PSALM 46

What shines out from this passage? What insight did it provide?

What is an “old truth” that hit you in a new way?



What questions came to mind? Is there anything you didn't understand?

Is there a question you want to ask the writer or the Lord?



What is the central idea, or heart, of the passage?

Can you write it in one sentence?



How does the truth and message in the passage point to Jesus?
How does it fuel your worship?



What can be transformed in your thinking, desires and actions from this passage?



With whom could you share what you've learned?
What do you feel led to share and how can you share it?



Pray for the people named in the speech bubble box and for help with your points of application from the arrow box.

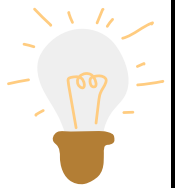


02

Pray and ask God to speak to each of you through his Word. Then read

PSALM 23

What shines out from this passage? What insight did it provide?
What is an “old truth” that hit you in a new way?



What questions came to mind? Is there anything you didn't understand?
Is there a question you want to ask the writer or the Lord?



What is the central idea, or heart, of the passage?
Can you write it in one sentence?



How does the truth and message in the passage point to Jesus?
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What can be transformed in your thinking, desires and actions from this passage?



With whom could you share what you've learned?
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Pray for the people named in the speech bubble box and for help with your points of application from the arrow box.





**THEREFORE,
I URGE YOU**

LIVING IN LIGHT OF GOD'S MERCY

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What comes to mind when you think about worshipping God? If you asked a stranger in the streets of Lismore, what would they think worshipping God looks like?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul says in Romans 12:1 *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy"...*

From the Romans passages below, what examples of "God's mercy" are shown?

- 1:16-17
- 3:23-24
- 5:8
- 8:1
- 8:38-39
- 10:9-10
- 11:33-36

2. What do you think Paul means when he uses the term “*living sacrifice*”?

3. What is Paul showing us about what worshipping God looks like?

4. How can we not conform to the world? How does this help us discern God’s will?

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

6. Why is it important that we are seeking to love God and others as a response of knowing the mercies we have been shown in Christ?

7. How might it look for you to live (or continue to live) in worship and love of God in your life?

COMING UP - VISION SUNDAY - 24 NOVEMBER

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Why is it important to remember God's mercy as we consider what it looks like to love the church family?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Romans 12:1-8

1. How does Paul encourage all Christians to live in v3? Why is this how he begins his paragraph on serving the church family?
2. What does it mean for the church to be one body in Christ?
3. Why do we have different gifts?

4. How is Paul encouraging people to use their God-given gifts?

5. How can we maintain this posture as we serve each other?

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6. How can we support and encourage someone who feels they cannot contribute to their Gospel Community or wider church family?

7. How can we help each other in identifying and using our God-given gifts?

8. Re-read question 1. Once again discuss the importance of how Paul starts the paragraph...

COMING UP - VISION SUNDAY - 24 NOVEMBER

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

On a scale from 0-10 (0 being awful and 10 being perfect) how would you rate the following groups at loving each other well:

- The world
- Australia
- Lismore

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Romans 12:9-21

1. Share something which struck you, or stuck out to you, from this passage and why.
2. Are there any overarching themes present throughout these encouragements and instructions?
3. Is Jesus' teaching about loving your enemy a big deal to the world (both today and when this letter was written)?

4. What do you think Paul is teaching us in v19-20? What is he hoping our love of enemies will achieve?

5. How is Paul urging Christians to treat other people (both those who have faith and those who do not)?

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6. How can we serve God by loving those around us without becoming legalistic or big-headed?

7. Discuss ways in which you would like to grow in love for those around you. Are there any areas in your life where you struggle with loving others?

COMING UP - VISION SUNDAY - 24 NOVEMBER



Hidden Christmas

THE SURPRISING TRUTH BEHIND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

07

A LIGHT HAS DAWNED

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Christmas is known as a time of peace, unity and love. Is this an accurate description of the rest of the year? What three words would you use to describe the world?

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Isaiah 8:19-22

1. What does Isaiah mean by "God's instruction and the testimony of warning" in v20, and how does this instruction contrast with seeking guidance from other sources?

2. In v20, Isaiah states that those who do not speak according to this word have "no dawn." How does this imagery of dawn and light relate to the spiritual condition of those who reject God's word?



Isaiah 9:1-7

3. How does Isaiah 9:2 describe the transformation from darkness to light? What does this signify about the coming of the Messiah?

4. In Isaiah 9:6-7, several titles are given to the promised child - *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. How do these titles reveal the nature and mission of Jesus?

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5. What about these titles demand a response? Do you think it's possible to stay neutral?

6. In what area do you experience personal darkness in your life? How can the hope and light described in Isaiah 9:2-7 bring transformation to these areas?

08

WHERE IS THE KING?

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Why do the tabloids love royal births so much?

How would the average Aussie describe Jesus' birth?

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Matthew 2:1-23

1. Why was Herod so distressed?

2. How is the location of Jesus' birth so upside down for royalty?

3. Why was Galilee an unusual location for a future king to reside?



Romans 5:6-11

4. How can our hearts put us in enmity with God?

5. In what ways do you forget how un-kingly Jesus' birth, life and ministry actually was?

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6. Who (or what) sits on the throne of your heart?

7. Reflect on this quote from Tim Keller and discuss...

In every heart then, there is a "Little King Herod" that wants to rule and is threatened by anything that may compromise its omnipotence and sovereignty. Each of us wants to be the captain of our own soul, the master of our own fate.

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Why is the title, "A sword in the soul", a strange name for a Christmas-themed Bible topic?

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**Luke 2:22-35**

1. What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is?
2. How does Simeon recognise Jesus?
3. What does this teach us about the role of the Spirit in the lives of those who have faith in Jesus?

4. How does Simeon describe Jesus in v29-32? Why is this significant?

5. What does Simeon say Jesus will do in v34? What does this mean?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

6. This passage is showing that Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension will cause conflict. How might Jesus cause

- Conflict between people and in relationships?
- Inner conflict within someone?

7. How can we face this inner conflict?

8. Discuss who you could invite along to Carols and our Christmas Day gathering. Pray for each other in this.

COMING UP - CAROLS - 22 DECEMBER

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SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2024