

FOUNDATIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

Book 3 of 4

Living the Christian Life



Introduction to book 3/4

1. Read our book one of this series *“How You can Connect with God”*, which is in the church foyer or online at www.whangareicbc.org.nz/finding-faith/
2. Book two of this series *“I’m baptised! Now what!?”*
3. Watch the video on our website www.whangareicbc.org.nz/finding-faith/ *“How to connect to God.”* This will give you a practical overview of what the Bible says, in 20 minutes.
4. Go to Alpha.org
Click on *“Watch”* and view Episode 2 *“Who is Jesus”*
5. Go to alltogether.co.nz and take the 10 Day Challenge
6. Bible Project www.thebibleproject.com
The Bible Project creates videos that show the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. The Bible is literary genius and has divine wisdom for the modern world.
7. Questions of Life www.questionsoflife.com Long and short answers to commonly asked questions, and a place to ask your own questions.

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May you hear His voice, know His freedom, discover His purposes for you and enjoy His company, as you work through these studies. You matter to God and to His church. You were meant for this.

Yours faithfully

Pastor Russell Watts





Living the Christian life on a daily basis

Read the following verses and list the things that we can do to live the Christian life on a daily basis:

1 John 1: 7-9

My dear friends, I am not writing to give you a new commandment. It is the same one that you were first given, and it is the message you heard. But it is really a new commandment, and you know its true meaning, just as Christ does. You can see the darkness fading away and the true light already shining in. If we claim to be in the light and hate someone, we are still in the dark.



John 7: 37-39

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you, just as the scriptures say". Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone that had faith in Him. The spirit hadn't yet been given to anyone, since Jesus hadn't yet been given His full glory.

Luke 11: 13



As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your Heavenly Father is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.

Galatians 3: 14

And because of what Jesus Christ has done, the blessing that was promised to Abraham was taken to the gentiles. This happened so that by faith we would be given the promised Holy Spirit.

The Spirit filled life is an obedient and abiding life. Begin each day by asking God to cleanse your life according to **1 John 1: 19**. Present your body to the Holy Spirit according to **Romans 12: 1-2**, and ask Him to keep you filled with His power.

Time alone with God is a time of personal fellowship with the Lord



Getting to know Jesus Christ better and better should be a top priority for every Christian. When we spend time alone with Him, we get to know Him in a personal, intimate way.

Read **Philippians 3: 8**. How important was knowing Jesus Christ to Paul?

Time alone with God is when God can speak to you about your own life

If you are like most other people, you're on the run all day long. By the time you wade through your schedule, you hit the sack exhausted. But how often do you sit down just to take an honest look at your life? Do you take time to evaluate where you are going and who you really are? Time alone with God helps you see yourself as He sees you.



He lets you know who you are not, as a Christian. He points out the sins in your life, helps you admit them, and gives you the power to overcome them. God shows you who you are. He helps you discover the gifts He has given you and offers personal guidance so you can become the best person you can possibly be.

Read **Psalm 139: 23-24**, and let these verses become a daily prayer from you to God.

Time alone with God is a time to commit your day to the Lord

Do you ever worry about family relationships; work issues; your busy schedule? Time alone with God provides the opportunity to give all your worries to Him, and trust Him to take care of you. You aren't big enough to handle problems. God is!

Luke 9: 23

"Then Jesus said to all the people, if any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me."

How often should you commit your life, with all its worries and problems to the Lord?

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”*

Why have time alone with God?

God desires your fellowship

You may not think you are important, but God receives pleasure from being with you! Maybe you are feeling that, reading the Bible and praying, are things you have to do, the ‘duties’ of a ‘good Christian’. No way! Prayer and Bible study are the communication channels between you and God.

Jesus deserves your attention

As you fellowship with Jesus Christ, you soon realise that He had to pay an awesome price to make your relationship with God possible. Jesus was nailed to a splintered Roman cross. He shed His blood. He sacrificed His life. Why? Because there was no other way to bring you and God together, and Jesus loved you enough to pay that price.

Jesus deserves your attention

He is more than worthy of your praise, your love, adoration, and your life. Spending time alone with God allows you to take your eyes off yourself, and focus them on Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 6: 20. What should you do in response to Christ's sacrifice for you?

The Holy Spirit keeps your relationship with Jesus growing

Although you have become a Christian, you are still living in a fallen world and things are not always going to go along sweetly. Many people begin their Christian lives on 'cloud nine', only to hit the ground with a thud, the first time something goes wrong. One main reason for their fall is the failure to develop a daily relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mark 1: 35

“Very early the next morning, Jesus got up and went to a place where He could be alone and pray”.

Even Jesus, during His time on earth, actively sought fellowship with His father. Because Jesus spent time alone with God regularly, He had the strength to do His father's will, even when He didn't feel like it physically or emotionally. (**See Luke 4: 1-14**). If time alone with God was so desperately needed by Jesus, it should also be essential to you.

Learning how to spend time alone with God

Choose a time

It is important to make a date with the Lord every day. Jesus often met with the Father in the morning (**Mark 1:35**), and His is a good example to follow.



Choose a place



It is usually much easier to communicate with God if you can be alone with Him, in a place where you won't be distracted. Think of a good place for you to meet with the Lord.

Choose to prepare

As you begin your time alone with God, your mental attitude is very important.

Jeremiah 29: 13 *You will seek Me, and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.*

Prayer

Developing a close relationship with God involves many of the same things – spending time together sharing experiences, thoughts, feelings, fears and joys. That's why prayer is so important. It gives you an opportunity to talk with God, to get to know Him better, and to develop the ability to share everything with Him. Relationships don't develop through silence. To know God - to become His friend, and for Him to become yours, means communicating with each other.

God has a hotline!

'Dial' **Jeremiah 33:3** in your Bible: *"Call to me and I will answer you, and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know".*

In the spiritual realm, prayer is the switch that allows the power of the Holy Spirit to illuminate our lives. Read **Romans 8: 26-29**. What aspects of prayer can you gather from this passage?

The value of personal Bible study

Think back to a time when you received a letter from a close friend or a special someone. How did you feel when you received the envelope? How long did you wait to read the letter inside?

Psalm 119: 105

"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."

It's puzzling then, to consider that, although many Christians are interested in knowing what God is saying to them, they neglect to read the letters and messages God has prepared for them. The Bible is God's love letter to all those who trust in Christ. It makes sense then, that we should learn all we can about God's Word, for it is His primary means of speaking to us.

Keeping a record

Here is a way of keeping order in your daily quiet time.

My response to my daily Bible reading

Date: _____ Bible Passage: _____

Best verse, or verses: _____

What could God be saying to me? _____

My Prayer Response _____

Evaluation of how I lived yesterday _____

Adoration (something to praise God) _____

Confession (anything from yesterday that needs to be put right) _____

Thanksgiving (answer to prayers) _____

Supplication (concerns I am praying for) _____

Listening (what is God saying to me) _____

She needs love! He needs respect!

Dr Emerson Eggerichs, a marriage counsellor of 30 years' experience, has written a very practical book called "Love and Respect". See also website: www.loveandrespect.com



His proposition is this:

In marriage, a woman's basic need is to feel loved, whereas a man's basic need is to be respected. A man needs to give unconditional love to his wife and a wife needs to give unconditional respect to her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

*So each husband should **love** his wife as much as he loves himself, and each wife should **respect** her husband.*

Dr Emerson Eggerichs quotes two large surveys which were done amongst American men. In both of these studies, large groups of men were asked; "What do you need MOST from your wife? Love or Respect" In both surveys over 85% of the men said they needed respect the most.

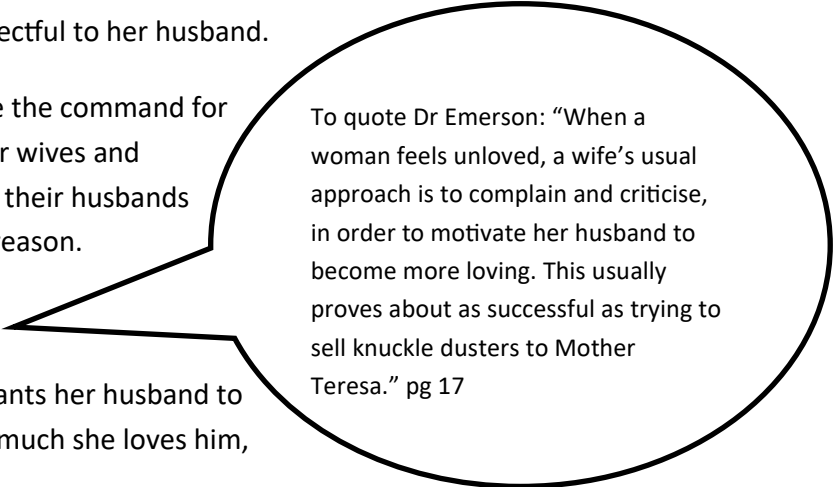
A man is commanded to love his wife because, even though our wives are wired to show love and want to be loved, we are not so well wired.

A woman is commanded to respect her husband because, even though men are wired around showing respect and being honourable, it doesn't come so naturally for woman.

When a husband feels disrespected, it is especially hard to love his wife. When a wife feels unloved, it is especially hard to respect her husband. In fact, when a man feels disrespected in a relationship, he has a natural tendency to withdraw and to react in ways that feel unloving to his wife. When a woman feels unloved, she is likely to give him an ear full, and has a natural tendency to react in ways

that feel disrespectful to her husband.

Maybe God gave the command for men to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands for exactly that reason.



To quote Dr Emerson: "When a woman feels unloved, a wife's usual approach is to complain and criticize, in order to motivate her husband to become more loving. This usually proves about as successful as trying to sell knuckle dusters to Mother Teresa." pg 17

"Every wife ... wants her husband to appreciate how much she loves him,

and she yearns to feel more love from him ... the best way to love a husband is to show him respect in ways that are meaningful to him. Such respect lets him feel his wife's love for him and ignites in him feelings of love for his wife." pg19

Without love, she reacts without respect. Without respect, he reacts without love and the crazy cycle begins.

Dr John Gottman spent 20 years researching marriages which had been happy and together for over 40 years. He found that though these couples had diverse backgrounds, cultures and income levels, there were two things in common in all these couples. As they talked together there was "a strong undercurrent of two basic ingredients: Love and Respect.

"Right or wrong, men interpret their world through the respect grid, and a wife's softened tone and facial expressions can do more for her marriage than she can imagine." pg65

I think that communication in marriage is always further complicated by the way that men see things and interpret things through male eyes, and woman always see and interpret things through female eyes.

For example, when a man says "I've got nothing to wear," he means I can't find any clean clothes. When a woman says "I've got nothing to wear," she probably means that she doesn't have any new clothes appropriate for the situation.

When our wives raise their voices, and say "We have got to get this sorted", often men hear criticism and maybe even contempt.

When men don't speak at all, or they walk out of the room - which they might be doing because they don't know what to say to keep the peace, most woman would interpret that as not caring or even a hostile act.

Dr Emerson Eggerichs' core message in his book is that God commands men to love their wives unconditionally. He also commands woman to respect their husbands unconditionally. Respect and love are not things you need to earn in a Christian marriage, like trust may be. He says that they are the basic needs of men and women. If women choose, with God's help, to show respect to their husband and, men choose, with God's help, to show respect to their wife, each will begin to get back what they need most from their spouse. But it's up to you to make the choice (determine) to give to them what they need.

After 30 years of marriage counselling and pastoring, Dr Emerson concludes this:

I want to suggest three things that you can do to break the crazy cycle, when it comes up in your marriage.

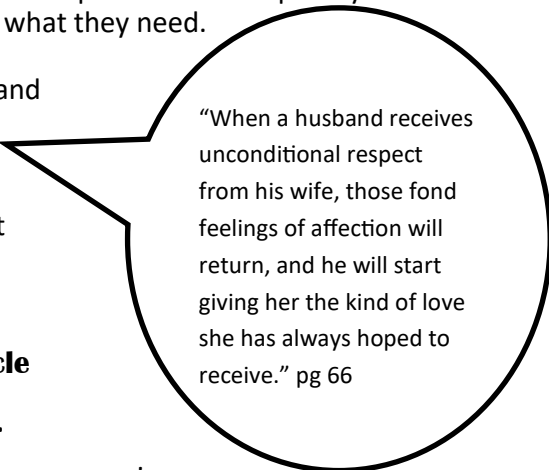
How to break the crazy cycle

1. Assume the best of your spouse.

You continually trust your children to your spouse's care.

Men are often not good communicators of feelings but, instead, good providers and protectors; while women are often good communicators of feelings. But no matter how skilled each of you is at finding the right words and expressions, you need to decide in your heart; that even if she gets too emotional for your comfort, or even if he doesn't express his feelings as well as you want him to, you both love each other and you both want things to work.

If she raises her voice, distorts her face or says some things that make you feel like mud, it is usually because she is desperate for your love, and to feel connected with you. She may not be going about it the best way, but assume the best of her. And ladies if he is foolish enough to tease you or try to make a joke about the situation that you are really concerned about, or if he is way too silent; give him the benefit of the doubt. Men find it hard to find the right words and many men have been trained to be tough; to not show too much emotion and to walk away from conflict.



"When a husband receives unconditional respect from his wife, those fond feelings of affection will return, and he will start giving her the kind of love she has always hoped to receive." pg 66

Assume the best of each other. Ultimately you both want the marriage to work and the family to be happy.

2. Forgive each other and have those love and respect conversations before you go to sleep.

Jesus warned us not to let the sun go down on our anger. There are so many scriptures in the Bible teaching us of our need to be forgiven and our need to forgive others. It takes a mature and strong person to initiate reconciliation. It takes real love and respect to consider your spouse's needs and to meet those needs before the day is finished.

Assume the best of each other and forgive one another.



3. Be strong

Ladies ask yourself this question, when you need to sort out an issue with your man.

Men before you respond to your girl, ask yourself.

"Does my response demonstrate the love that she needs right now?"

No sarcasm, no jokes please!!!

"Is what I am saying and how I am saying it respectful to my guy?"

Men, one of the many ways our ladies are not like us is that, often, their whole sense of happiness is based around their relationship to their husband. If a man is stressed about one area of his life, he has a tendency to compartmentalise that issue and it remains in the mix with the other issues, many of which may be doing well. When a lady feels her marriage has got problems, that colours the whole way she views her life. Our love has that much impact on them.



So, if your spouse raises her voice and says things that seem like bullets fired at you, I want to encourage you to man up, take the shots, let them off load and then quickly rush in to say you love her and you are listening. It's important that, if you are even slightly wrong, you say "I am sorry." Men, when you are with your mates, or at work, and there is a problem, usually you express your thoughts then let it go. Women find it much harder to let it go - unless they hear words from you that demonstrate that it is resolved. e.g. "I am sorry", "we are okay now".

Please take each other's needs seriously!

Men, your ladies want to be close to you, to know that you care about what they are feeling, so try to listen to them – rather than fix them. Continually express your commitment to them. They want problems discussed now, they want to be treasured in a variety of ways, they need you to show them that they are your number one priority.

Women, your men want you to appreciate their need to work and achieve; to respect their desire to provide and protect; to try to understand that doing things for you, is showing you that they love you; to recognise that their level headed problem-solving approach is really a form of male empathy, that when you hang out with them they feel valued, that sex makes them feel like a man and that being rejected for intimacy crushes their self-esteem.

Understanding the church body life

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.*

At the very moment that you became a Christian, you were adopted into the family of God (the Church Body). Now you have all of God's children as your family too. God loves you with the special love He has for those who love His Son. This family is to praise God together and to help one another; but this is impractical except on a local basis. You can love millions of people in God's family in only a very general way, yet you can help and be helped, by your brothers and sisters in a local church. This is why God has instructed us to join together in local fellowships.

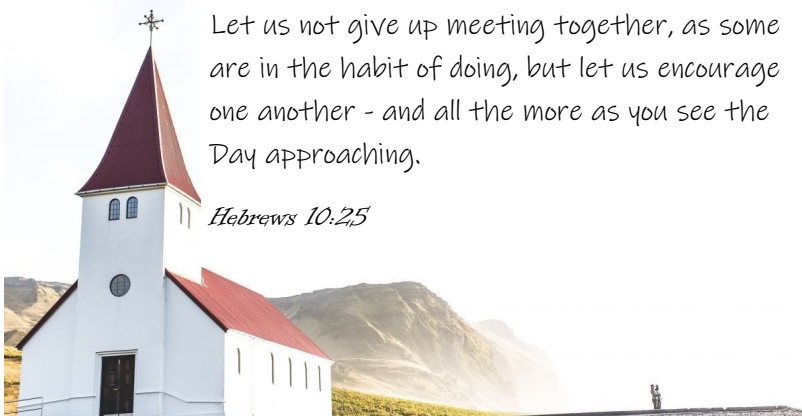


Read **Hebrews 10:25**. It is dangerous to neglect meeting together with your Church brothers and sisters, because this means you will be surrounding yourself with worldly people whose goals are the things of this life. Their goals are here on this earth, while yours are now in heaven. If you only spend time with people who are going their own way and trying to figure out their own plan and direction

for life, you will find it difficult to stand against the tide. Your enthusiasm for Christ can soon become diluted or even obliterated.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25



The early Christians offer us a model to follow. **Acts 2: 42** – they spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like a family to each other.

List four things that should be part of the corporate life of any local church:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4, _____

Paul writes about the church as though it was a living organism. He calls it ‘a body’.

Whose body are we members of? _____

How have you been positioned in the body? _____

Read **Ephesians 4: 11-16**. What causes growth in the body?



Growing with other Christians



Christianity is a faith that can only be lived out in relationship to other Christians. Around fifty times, in the New Testament, we are told how to live out our faith in relation to one-another. We are “better” together. There is no New Testament example of a Christian who does not meet with and serve other local Christians! God wants us to live and grow together. We must, of course, come together to worship God and listen to the proclamation of Scripture, but the corporate worship of the whole fellowship does not lend itself to the development of depth-relationships, which are really the substance of Christianity; relationship with God first, and then our fellow men.

Luke 10: 27 *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Jesus gave us two commandments only. What are these two commandments?

It is difficult to fully obey these commandments across the pews on a Sunday, there are just too many people. A small group however, meeting in a home, allows us to develop in depth relationships. People, today, live in an impersonal world, alienated from their neighbours. Many times, we feel like we are just a number.

Read *Ephesians 4:3*

Notice that many Christians have been given the gift of unity by the Spirit, which we only have to maintain; we don't have to create it. Within the home “Care” group (or ‘accountability group’) we can begin to see the whole body functioning, with each member realising that he/she has a part to play and a responsibility to use his/her gift to build up others.

Read *Ephesians 5: 21*

From this, we understand that no-one can do his own thing, but needs to be subject to others. We need to have a new honesty in our lives and even be prepared to cry before each other, in real brokenness.

That was the Good News – now for the ‘Bad News’....

Many times, people will hurt us, and in each case, we may be completely in the right, but we must forgive. **God declares that unforgiveness is a sin.** Unforgiveness will eventually damage us, not the person who hurt us. It will develop into bitterness that slowly taints our whole personality, like a cancer in the body.

Read *Matthew 18: 21-35*, and *Hebrews 12: 15*

Q. What should we do if someone is sinning or sins against us?

Q. Can we tell someone else before we speak to the person?

***Ephesians 4: 31-32** says, “Stop being bitter, angry and mad at each other. Don’t yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.”*

How must we forgive?

***Mark 11:25** “Whenever you stand up to pray, you must forgive what others have done to you. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins.”*

When we pray, what should our attitude be to others?

***Matthew 6: 14-15** “If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father won’t forgive your sins.”*

If we don’t forgive, what is the consequence?

Church Membership is essentially a commitment of a Christian, to other local Christians, to live the Christian life 'together' and to reach out to others 'together'. If you have been baptised by immersion, please take the pamphlet "How to Join this Team" from the Church foyer.

10 Little Christians

*10 little Christians came to church all the time;
one fell out with the preacher, then there were nine.*

*9 little Christians stayed up late;
one overslept on Sunday, then there were eight.*

*8 little Christians on their way to heaven;
one took the low road, then there were seven.*

*7 little Christians, chirping like chicks;
one didn't like the singing, then there were six.*

*6 little Christians seemed very much alive;
one took a vacation, then there were five.*

*5 little Christians pulling for heaven's shore;
one stopped to rest a while and then there were four.*

*4 little Christians each as busy as a bee;
one got his feelings hurt, then there were three.*

*3 little Christians couldn't decide what to do;
one couldn't have his way, then there were two.*

*2 little Christians each won one more
now don't you see, two and two make four.*

*4 little Christians worked early and late,
each one brought one, now there were eight.*

*8 little Christians, if they double as before...
in just seven Sundays we'd have one thousand and twenty-four.*

*In this little jingle, there is a lesson true –
You belong either to the building or to the wrecking crew!*

Hebrews 6:1-3 describes the **foundations** to Christian faith. i.e. Repentance, faith, water and Holy Spirit baptism, the impartation of Spiritual gifts through the laying on of hands and life after death. Do you have any questions about any of these areas?

Mark 16:16-18 describes spiritual gifts that all Christians have, when they have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (even if they don't necessarily use them).

Romans 12:6-8 describes the motivational gifts. Please go through the list below and **tick** the one or two you believe motivates you to serve.

- Prophecy:** The motivation to reveal the heart and mind of God in a given situation.
Encouraging, comforting and good for building character.
- Serving:** The desire to invest time and effort in meeting the practical needs of others.
- Teaching:** The desire to communicate God's truth in order to give understanding and direction.
- Encouraging:** The desire to encourage and motivate others in their walk with God.
- Giving:** The desire to sacrificially give to meet the needs of others.
- Leading:** The desire to coordinate the efforts of others to accomplish a God-given vision.
- Mercy:** The desire to express the compassion of Jesus towards the hurting and the wounded.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 describes spiritual gifts used in ministry (usually in church meetings). Please put a **tick** beside any that you feel you have.

- Word of Wisdom:** The ability to solve problems skilfully, often with divine and instant insights.
- Word of Knowledge:** The ability to know facts about a person or situation, which were not learned through the efforts of the natural mind.
- Faith:** To discern with extraordinary confidence, the will and purposes of God for the future. You know what God wants to do and will do no matter what the odds.
- Healing:** The ability to intervene in a supernatural way, as an instrument for the curing of illness and the restoration of health. There are a variety of healing gifts given by God.
- Prophecy:** The ability to communicate an immediate message from God to the church.
- Distinguishing Spirits:** The ability to know what is happening in the spiritual realm (good or evil).
- Tongues:** The ability to hear and give a message for the church, in an unknown language.
- Interpretation of Tongues:** The divine ability to know what the message in tongues means. Often someone with this gift will hear actual words in English, as the tongue is being given, or simply get a sense of what is being said.

Ephesians 4:11-13 describes leadership offices. If you have ever had a church, or movement of churches, acknowledge one of these senior offices in ministry in your life, please tick alongside the office and write also where and when.

Apostles: Set the church in order so that all the gifts can function properly. They usually move in all the gifts. Train up leaders. Plant churches and have oversight over more than one congregation.

Prophets: Receive and handle revelation wisely. They give guidance and direction to the church. They usually see things in black and white and (unlike normal Christians who prophecy), they will make the church and individuals aware of sin.

Evangelists/missionaries: Not only help people become disciples, but encourage and train up others to effectively draw men and woman to Jesus. Evangelists often move in the power gifts such as faith, healing and miracles.

Pastors: He/she gives personal care to the members of the church family. They will have a broad overview of the condition of the flock, and a vision from God about where the church should be going.

Teachers: Give the church and its members' stability through providing a strong foundation of truth from the Word or revelation.

Stewardship (Handling finance in a Godly way)

A wise man once said that giving is not God's way of raising finance, its God's way of raising children!

Pastor Bill Hybels says, "If God has got your wallet, He's got your heart."



What do you think he meant? _____

What do these scriptures teach us about finance?

Romans 12:13

Philippians 4:11-13

Philippians 4:6

While most Christians believe that a manageable debt on an appreciating asset is okay, debt in the Bible usually refers to a form of slavery; i.e. a person who is in debt is a slave to the lender and you and I know what that feels like.

Book 4 of this series has some steps for getting out of debt, which we trust will help. However, debt is often associated with an ungrateful heart and a lack of contentment (greed). When we give to God through the local church, we are in fact giving away our greed, our selfishness and trusting God to provide for our needs. Giving is God's way of training our hearts.



Re-write **Luke 12:34** in your own words. _____

Possibly, a New Testament verse that best summarises how we are to give is **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

With what attitude should we give?

What are the two results, of those who give generously to the Lord?

a)

b)

As an indicator of how much to give, most Jews and Christians historically have given 10% of their net income to the local church. This is not a legal requirement in the New Testament, but a principle that God obviously established and honours.

How did God feel when people in the Old Testament didn't give 10% of their finance, grain, fruit, time etc?

Malachi 3:8

Jesus was often cross with the Pharisees (religious leaders of His time), who did the right thing, but lacked compassion/ love. In His response to them, in **Matthew 23:23**, was it His expectation that people should tithe? _____.

We believe that giving is important because Pastor Hybels was right; if the Lord has your wallet He has your heart. In fact, we love to give and give in a committed disciplined way.

Most of the church family are increasingly giving through automatic payments, some give through the envelope system and some give into the offering bag on Sundays. A form describing how we can give to the Lord can be found in the church foyer. It is entitled '**Honouring God with our Resources**'. If you give by automatic payment or through the envelope system, you will get a tax receipt in April/May and you can claim up to 1/3 of what you gave, back as a tax rebate.

Information on how this money is used (in the kingdom) is readily available from our church treasurer.

What kind of people will not lack any good thing? ***Psalm 34:10***

My work is my ministry

When is a Church not a church?

When is a minister not a minister?

When is the Spirit not the Spirit?

When is a Christian not a Christian?

God wants to be a part of your life 24/7, and what you spend most of your week doing, as your 'work' is very important to Him! While our culture would describe work as the service or skill you sell to earn money, God sees things differently. A Biblical definition of work would also include your voluntary service, parenting of your children and your study. All 'work' is important to God.

What contemporary job titles would you give to God in these situations?

1. In **Genesis 1 and Revelation 22** God is seen doing complex planning.

This is like being a

_____.

2. In **Genesis 1** God is described as a maker five times.

This is like being a

_____.

3. Throughout scripture God is seen teaching and training humanity.

This is like being a

_____.

Work is part of God's original plan for people

Look at **Psalm 144:1**. Though King David had a terrible job (fighting wars), where did he say he got his ability from?

Your work matters to God

It is much more than a way to earn money to pay bills, or to support mission. It's a way of expressing worship to your creator.

Colossians 3:23-24 CEV

“Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and you know He will reward you.”

What would it look like to have this attitude at work?

What would be done differently?

What impact would that have on others?

Your workplace is the place where you can grow spiritually and be involved in ministry and evangelism.

What would happen if, every day, as you went to work, you asked for God's anointing on you?

How many people are you in regular contact with through your 'work'?

These are people God wants you to minister to and to witness to!

Remember your faith, not your 'work' (what you do), defines who you are.

A man standing on a train platform was once asked, "Who are you?" He replied "I am a Christian, thinly disguised as an accountant."

Don't let work become your idol, but do remember that God has given you particular skills to do work. Enjoy using the skills He has given you. Work as unto the Lord Himself, bring His ethics, His healing, His presence into the workplace and you will find that your work (where/how you spend most of your week) will also become an exciting place of ministry!

Children's Bible Apps



Big Little Bible - FREE 3+ The Big Little Bible will help children discover that the Bible tells one big interconnected story about God and his plan to rescue the masterpiece of his creation – people.



Bible App for Kids - Ages 6-8 year olds. Through interactive adventures and beautiful animations, kids explore the big stories of the Bible.



Bible Adventures- ages 7 and under can learn, interact and engage with their favourite Bible stories in new and exciting ways - features 10 of the best-loved stories of the Bible and 20 games!



Superbook kids bible app-

This FREE app brings the Bible to life for the entire family with an easy to understand Bible for kids, Bible videos and fun engaging Bible games.



David vs Goliath - Ages 3+. The epic bible story of David vs. Goliath! Help David go from shepherd to hero with tons of slinging, lion fighting and lyre practice along the way! Can you get him ready to face Goliath?



Bible Buddies - Bring Bible stories to life by allowing YOUR CHILD TO STAR alongside Daniel, Esther, and Abraham in your own CARTOONS! Kids and adults alike love the simplicity of puppeteering and voicing characters while creating movies to share. Simply pick out your actors and backdrops then tap record. Your movements and audio will be recorded to create your personal bible movie.

Granny's Bible Dojo - this app is a fast action board crackin' game providing the best experience you'll ever have learning the order of the books of the Bible! Her training will challenge kids, teens, adults, teachers, even seasoned ministers!



Whangarei Central Baptist Church

“Raising World Changing Christians, Serving Northland Churches”

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