

Week Beginning: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Worship Series: #3 in series



A time of  
no regrets

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:21



## Remember This Week

You have but one mission and purpose in life. Filled and anointed with the power of the Spirit, God is calling you to go wherever there is hurt, pain, isolation, fear or need and announce in word and deed that God sees them and is present with his life-transforming grace to heal, release, and restore.



**Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.**

Psalms 80:3



Life-giving God, we thank you that your Son brought good news and set us free from all that diminishes us from living an abundant life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, have mercy on us, heal us and restore us. Move in and through our lives that we may see people as you see them and act in their lives that they may come to know and experience the healing and restoration that only come in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Bless this time together that the words we speak may bring life, healing and restoration to each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *What is your biggest regret in life?*
3. *When it comes to old things, do you have a preference for restoring/renovating/fixing or replacing with something new or modern? Why?*
4. *When in your life have you felt 'on the margins' of a group, community, circle of friends and was it possible to move from the edge? Share.*
5. *If you were asked today, "what is your purpose in life?" - how would you answer?*

The statistics and research cannot be clearer. The Church in Australia is becoming increasingly irrelevant in the eyes of the majority. It has been marginalised. It has lost its social location at the centre of culture and no longer occupies an influential place in the community. But maybe that's a good thing. For it's precisely on the edges and in the margins of life that Jesus says we belong as his people. It's among those that the world does not want to see or chooses to ignore, among all whose experience of life is impoverished, that we rediscover God's good and holy purpose for our lives - to restore people to the fullness of his life. So come, hear, receive, and experience the good news as Jesus pushes us out of the comfortable places to live a powerful life that restores.

Read Luke 4:14-21

6. *What strikes you about this text on first hearing it?*
7. *What's the significance of the phrase in verse 14: 'Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit?' (cf. Luke 4:1; think about what Galilee represented)*

*The passage read by Jesus is from Isaiah 61:1-2. It would have been a familiar reading for the people gathered in the synagogue that day. The prophet Isaiah portrays God's anointed as one who embodies God's grace and hope by bringing good news, healing, setting free, and comforting. It is God who sends Christ, the anointed one, into the world on a mission.*





8. How has God anointed you for his purpose and how do you experience that anointing in your daily life?
9. In a single sentence, Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament. What was the reaction of those hearing this sermon (Read 4:22-31) and what caused that reaction?
10. How did Jesus in his ministry fulfill each aspect of the mission as described in Isaiah?
11. "If we are followers of Jesus, then Jesus' purpose and mission will be our purpose and mission as well." How do you respond to that statement?
12. To what extent have you embraced his purpose in the world and adopted it for yourself?
13. What is challenging about that call in your own life?
14. Spend some time thinking about what Jesus says his and our purpose is. Translate those verses for this day and culture:
  - \* Who are the poor in our society today (think broader than just materially) and how do you proclaim good news to them?
  - \* Who are the prisoners and the oppressed that Jesus is sending you to and how can you declare freedom to them with sensitivity or assist them with justice?
  - \* Who are the blind that God is calling you to proclaim that God is recovering their sight?
  - \* Who needs to hear that God looks with favour on them and how can you heal the broken hearted?
15. What's the significance of Jesus saying: "**Today...**this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'?

The power of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated through the good news it brings to others and what it accomplishes for others. Real power, the power of the Holy Spirit in us, always moves us towards the needs of others, not our own comfort. It's a power that sets others free, builds up others, and is used to help others live in the fullness of the Father's love and life. It's a power that announces redemption to a world that denies its fallenness, healing to a world that revels in its brokenness, that proclaims love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear & suspicion, and community to a world that thrives on its tribalism, individuality and anonymity. The time of waiting is over. Today is the day of salvation, of restoration. Today is the day of forgiveness for you and me and all

- who are spiritually and emotionally poor
- who are bound by people, expectations and our own bad habits
- who are blind to the ways of God and his purpose for us
- who have listened to the evil one and suffered oppression.



Jesus comes to bring good news. But good news is only good news if you are willing to admit to bad news - that life is hard, that there are empty spaces in your heart that you have filled but are still empty, that there's stuff that ties you up and won't turn loose, that you don't have all the answers, that you aren't so perfect and all together after all. God offers words of life and comfort, but such words only mean something to those living with discomfort.

16. What in your life do you need God to restore at this time and how can the LifeGroup be a part of that healing, restoring, announcing good news to you?

**Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.** St. Teresa of Avila

17. As a LifeGroup what is one way that you together can carry out Christ's purpose for you in the year ahead?

- \* Praise God for anointing you with his Spirit and power in the waters of baptism and giving your life a purpose. Thank Jesus for modeling for us what it means to be with those on the margins of life. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with power to proclaim that good news that Christ has come to restore all things.
- \* Pray for Pastor Mat von Stanke, Elise, Lily, Aaron and Noah as they settle into life and ministry at LifeWay.
- \* Pray for your Church that together you may have courage to be the face of Jesus in your community and announce to people that God sees them.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

**Name, the Spirit of the Lord is upon you. Amen.**

