



2021

VISION SUNDAY



2021 rockypc VISION & MISSION

Rockhampton Presbyterian Church exists to grow disciples, under God, who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others, to grow the gospel and the church for the glory of Jesus.

This mission arises from the Great Commission in Matthew 28v18-20 where Jesus sent his disciples into the world to make disciples.

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to Jesus, it is our desire to make and grow new disciples who love Jesus and it is our desire to grow as disciples, becoming more like Jesus as His Spirit transforms us.

Over many years our focus as a church has been on growing existing disciples, however our desire has to be reaching into our community because there are more than 80 000 people in our region who need Jesus. Our core convictions must drive us to reach those people in our community who don't yet know Jesus, since:

- 1. Heaven and Hell are real — Revelation 21-22**
- 2. Jesus really lived, died and rose again — Hebrews 9v26-28**
- 3. Jesus reigns supreme — Colossians 1v15-23**

Life for everyone is short, so compelled by love, we want everyone to know all about Jesus.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5v14-15)

At **rockypc** we want to grow disciples captured by this vision of Christ's love for lost people. In his second letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul paints a picture of God's grace overflowing to more and more people. He says:

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4v5-6)

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4v13-15)

It is our conviction that, as we grow to know Jesus better, our faith will grow, we'll believe and therefore speak, and more and more people will respond with thanksgiving to God. We believe this will be the case, even when following Jesus is hard because of trouble from outside the church, or because Jesus makes uncomfortable claims on our lives.

That's also why we've been praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in Rockhampton and Gracemere, in our generation, for a start. We all know at least 10 people, and if 1 in 10 people belongs to Jesus, then it means everyone in our region has a chance to hear about Jesus as we speak for the sake of others. But as we speak, because the god of this age blinds people to the truth, we need God to be at work in people's hearts and minds so they might see His glory in the face of Christ.

In God's goodness to us, this year, despite COVID-19, we've seen him start to answer those prayers, as people from outside **rockypc** have connected with us both online and in person. In 2019, we had 3 people join us for CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER, but this year, 15 new people were in and around **rockypc** during CTM, and 2 have continued on to investigate life with Jesus in the LIFE COURSE. This is hugely encouraging and in a difficult time it's a reason to praise God!

But we need to remember there's still more than 80 000 people in our city, who desperately need to know Jesus.

As we look to 2021 and consider where we might head as a church, we need to keep these people in our minds. We might not all feel able to share the good news about Jesus, but we can all relate to different people and invite them into our lives, so that they might see and hear the gospel at work. After all, the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

Will you keep praying that God gives 8000 people to Jesus in our city, in our generation, for a start?

8000 is a big number, but God might just start with one of your friends or family members.

So, will you pray for 5 friends, for the whole of 2021, for an opportunity to talk and to invite?

How would you feel if one of your friends turned to Jesus? It would be amazing! Even more amazing if all 5 did. But they need you to pray and they need you to share your life with them.

At **rockypc**, we're praying and inviting. Are you?

In 2021, we're planning on running CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER and THE LIFE COURSE, twice each. It would be fantastic to have at least three times as many people come along. So, who can you bring?

Don't wait until January to start the conversation.

Here's how you can start:

- Tell them your pastor at rockypc has asked you to get as many answers to this question as possible:

How would you finish this sentence "God would be good news for me if"?

- Ask what they think and let Andrew know their answer — andrew@rockypc.org.au

At **rockypc**, we want to be growing disciples, under God, who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others, to grow the gospel and the church, for the glory of Jesus. We'd love you to grow with us in 2021.





2021

EAGER EXPECTATION!

ROMANS 8v18-39

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THE TALK WILL BE IN THREE SECTIONS. THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

SECTION 1 — ROMANS 8v18-25 — WE'RE NOT THERE YET!

What and who are you thankful to God for in 2020? Don't forget to write down how you can express your thanks!

A Question I Still Have:

A Key Verse from this section:

SECTION 2 — ROMANS 8v26-30 — GOD'S NOT FINISHED YET!

How are you going to commit to growing as a disciple in 2021? Who can you help grow, either as a new disciple or an existing one? How will you do this?

A Question I Still Have:

A Key Verse from this section:

SECTION 3 — ROMANS 8v31-39 — JESUS IS VICTORIOUS!

What worries you most about your future? How might Jesus' victory help with your cares and concerns?

A Question I Still Have:

A Key Verse from this section:

My prayer in response to God's word:



GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

2021

EAGER EXPECTATION!

ROMANS 8v18-39

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

2020 has been a year filled with uncertainty and plenty of challenges and now 2021 is just around the corner. As you think ahead to next year, what kinds of things are you planning, hoping for, or concerned about — for yourself, your family, work, church?

As we work through Romans 8 together, it is our hope that you'll be excited about what God has in store for us at **rockypc**.

READ ROMANS 8v18-25

1. In Romans 8v14-17, Paul says the children of God are led by the Spirit, cry out to their Father in heaven and they are heirs with Christ, sharing his suffering and glory, but what is the reality he is wrestling with in these next few verses of Romans 8?
2. In what ways do you see the whole of creation groaning in our present time?
3. What have you been groaning about lately on a personal level? Would you say that your groans have made you more or less patient and/or more or less hopeful for something better?
4. Even though 2020 has been a tough year, take some time to reflect on what you have to be thankful for, then share some things with your group?

READ ROMANS 8v26-30

5. According to these verses, in what ways does the Spirit help us in our weakness?

6. It is important not to read v28 in isolation from the surrounding verses. What is the greatest good that God is working for those who love him?

7. At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**. In what ways have you seen God growing you and others to be like Jesus in the past year?

8. How do these verses give confidence to keep growing as disciples and to keep growing new disciples in 2021?

9. Consider what part you can play in the year ahead. How will you seek to grow — as a disciples; other disciples (existing and new)?

READ ROMANS 8v31-39

10. Does your confidence match Paul's? If not, what do you need in order to be more sure about the future?
Consider where Paul's confidence comes from — review Romans 1v16-17

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, and you don't have to wait until next year to take action. Consider your answers to the questions above and make a plan to grow into the image of Jesus. Ask someone in your group to help encourage you and pray for you. Write down what you're going to ask God to do in you and through you and then spend some time in prayer.

My prayer in response to God's word:

