

we are
rockypc
*growing
disciples*



rockypc SERIES COMPANION
2021

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*growing
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Rockhampton Presbyterian Church (**rockypc**) is the oldest church in our city with ties back to 1861 when the first congregation was formed (just 3 years after settlement). Much has changed over 160 years! Rockhampton is now a large regional centre of more than 82 000 people and we long to see all of them know about the Lord Jesus, so they might turn to him in repentance and faith.



VISION

As a church, we're praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in Rockhampton and Gracemere, in our generation, for a start. We're not praying for 8000 because we think the rest don't matter, but because, we all know at least 10 people. If 1 in 10 people belongs to Jesus, then it means everyone in our region has a chance to hear about Jesus as we grow disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others.



rockypc 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.

MISSION

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.

GROWING NEW DISCIPLES

At **rockypc**, our desire is to reach into our community because there are more than 82 000 people in our region who need Jesus. Our core convictions 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**
4. **Life for everyone is short, so compelled by love, we want everyone to know all about Jesus — 2 Corinthians 5v14-15**

"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."

GROWING AS DISCIPLES

At **rockypc** we also want to grow as disciples because it is our conviction that the call to be a disciple is a call to imitate Jesus and grow to be like him. It's the call to live the life of the cross. In Luke 9v23, Jesus said:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

So, we are growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak because that's what Jesus did.



SACRIFICE

Jesus offered up his life in death so that we might be transferred from the dominion of darkness into his kingdom of light. Our sins are therefore forgiven and we have eternal life; so then, we live lives of sacrifice knowing that living as disciples of Jesus will be costly but eternally worthwhile.



SERVE

Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and he demonstrated this throughout his life but ultimately by considering our needs ahead of his own; and so, we live lives of service knowing that we no longer live for ourselves, but as servants of Jesus Christ by following his example.



SPEAK

Jesus himself is the Word of God and he speaks of life, healing, forgiveness and hope to people in desperate need of good news. The great news about Jesus is a gospel we've heard and that we're called to obey. This means we must speak the good news about Jesus to others so that they might also become his disciples.

CORE VALUES

As we seek to grow disciples, it is important to consider how growth happens, because this will determine where we focus our time, energy and resources to fulfil our mission as we see more and more people given to Jesus.

In this series we'll spend time in thoughtful reflection on God's word and see that God desires (at least) FIVE THINGS for his people as they grow and mature as disciples of Jesus.



If God desires these things for his disciples, we want to value them too and seek to grow in them. They will be at the heart of all we do at **rockypc**. It is our hope that as we understand what God values, we'll get excited about being part of his work in our region.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through each of the passages and consider how they contribute to each CORE VALUE. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you. The study questions are there as a guide, but there's lots more to be said about each CORE VALUE. Feel free to explore other Bible passages too, as time allows.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your series companion along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.

we are rockypc

TERM 4 DATES TO REMEMBER

growing disciples



VISION SUNDAY — I AM ROCKYPC
28 NOVEMBER @ SOUTHSIDE, 10AM

CHRIST(mas)
is coming

Sunday 5, 12 & 19 December
+ **CHRISTMAS DAY @ 9am**
Saturday 25 December

NOTE
There will be
NO CHURCH on
BOXING DAY
Sunday 26 December





DEEP IN THE WORD

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.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

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GETTING STARTED

How would you finish this sentence?

The best thing about reading the Bible is...

At **rockypc**, we value being Deep in the Word, because from the very first sentences in the Bible, we learn that our God is a speaking God.

READ GENESIS 1

1. What does God's word do or achieve here?

As God acts in the story of the Bible, with one family and nation in particular, we see his word at work in more ways among them.

READ EXODUS 3v11-15

2. How does God reveal himself to the Israelite nation? What is important for them to know about him?

The Israelite God goes on to speak commands and laws to his people as part of their covenant relationship with him.

READ DEUTERONOMY 6v1-9

3. How important should God's words be to the people of Israel?

4. What is their motivation to respond obediently to his words?

God sometimes speaks directly to the characters in the Bible, but often they are heard through someone else.

READ DEUTERONOMY 18v15-20

5. What do we learn about prophets and God's word here?

Why do we treat the Bible (a collection of smaller books written over thousands of years by numerous authors) as the word of God?

Isn't it just a human book of stories, letters and poems that contain some things God actually said?

The Bible is a self-aware book. It contains its own reflections on its authors and how they came to write words that were inspired by God, to be listened to and obeyed because they come from him. For example, Deuteronomy 28v58-61; Nehemiah 8; Luke 24v25-27; 2 Tim 3v16-17; 1 Peter 1v10-12; 2 Peter 1v12-21; 3v15-16; Revelation 22v18-19.

Some point out that this is a circular argument as if the Bible is saying 'Believe I'm the Word of God because I say I am'. This is unavoidable, because there can be no greater authority than the word of God! But to the believer, these are not just words on a page. Jesus alone has the words of eternal life, and we have nowhere else to go (John 6v68-69). The words are alive - cutting us to the heart and bringing us life (Hebrews 4v12-13; Romans 1v16-17). But no one can believe the Bible's testimony about itself unless God's Spirit has given them eyes to see (2 Corinthians 4v3-6).

From Adam and Eve's rejection of God's word on page 3 of the Bible, humanity has not responded to God speaking with devotion and obedience. Ultimately, this lands Israel in exile, under God's word of judgement (eg Isaiah 48v1-11).

That is, until God speaks again.

READ JOHN 1v1-18

6. If God was already speaking on the first page of the Bible, why is Jesus so special?

READ ROMANS 3v21-24

7. What new word is Jesus speaking?

READ HEBREWS 3v12-15

8. What should our attitude be to God's word, as believers in Jesus? (in contrast to the Israelites of Moses' day)

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3v14-17

9. What's unique about God's word, as opposed to any other speech?

10. To summarise, why is being Deep in the Word our **rockypc** core value?

11. How does your life reflect your attitude to the God who speaks to us? How do you want to grow deeper in his word?



SEEKING GOD

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU ARE USING A MOBILE DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

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GETTING STARTED

When are your feelings of love for God most stirred? Are they stirred at all?

At **rockypc**, we value seeking God because it is the right, natural and genuine response to who God is and how that flows on towards us.

READ ISAIAH 6v1-5

1. How is God described here?
2. How does Isaiah respond to the splendour of God's holiness?
3. Does God's holiness move you this way? Why/why not?

READ ACTS 17v22-31

4. What about God's character and actions should lead us to repentance?
5. Is repentance and confession of sin a regular/normal way that you seek God?

READ JOHN 6v35-40 & MATTHEW 11v23-30

6. How does Jesus describe his heart for those who come to him?
7. What assurance can weary, hungry, thirsty sinners have when they come to Jesus?
8. How do you put this picture of Jesus together with the holy, powerful God of Isaiah and Acts?

READ 1 JOHN 4v9-16

9. How does our love for God ignite and grow?

READ PSALM 96

10. Why is God praiseworthy?

11. In Christian circles, we often equate praise with singing. In what other ways does this Psalm describe praising God?

READ COLOSSIANS 3v12-17

12. Is seeking God just something between us and God? How can we seek God together as God's chosen people?

13. In summary, why is seeking God a core value for **rockypc**?

14. How do God's character and actions kindle our response to him?

15. How have you been encouraged to seek God today?

16. In what ways can we seek God in genuine and meaningful ways at **rockypc**? In our Sunday meetings? Kidschurch and **rockypc** YOUTH? GROWTH GROUPS? Other groups like service teams? Our families? Our informal relationships?

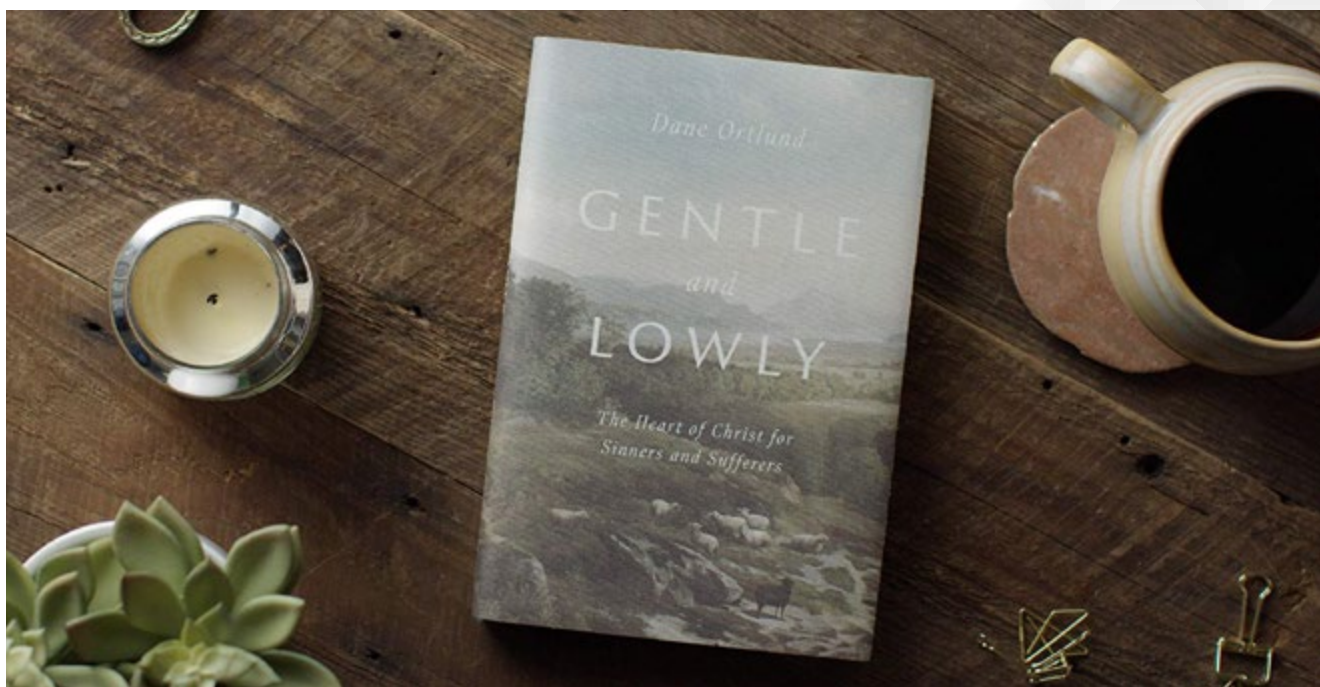
Seek God together in prayer now - in awe of his holiness, in repentance, faith, love, praise and thanks.

Consider listening to or singing a song together or find some other creative way to express your passionate delight in God.

“But saints and angels behold that glory of God which consists in the beauty of His holiness; and it is this sight only that will melt and humble the hearts of men, wean them from the world, draw them to God, and effectually change them. A sight of the awful greatness of God may overpower men’s strength, and be more than they can endure; but if the moral beauty of God be hid, the enmity of the heart will remain in its full strength. No love will be enkindled; the will, instead of being effectually gained, will remain inflexible. But the first glimpse of the moral and spiritual glory of God shining into the heart produces all these effects as it were with omnipotent power, which nothing can withstand.”

Jonathon Edwards, Religious Affections

If you’re needing a way to reignite your delight in who God is, try reading this book about his heart for us.



[You can buy a copy here.](#)



MISSION

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.)

Something I Never Knew:

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A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

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GETTING STARTED

How did the good news of Jesus come to you? Give us the 30 second version of who spoke it to you and how.

From the first pages of the Bible we see that the Creator God cares for all of humanity (Genesis 1v27-28). As they spread over the earth (Genesis 11v1-9), God chooses one man, Abraham, and his family (Genesis 12v1-3). Through that family, God says he'll bless all peoples (12v3). So even though the majority of the Old Testament is the story of God's relationship with one family, his heart is for all of humanity (see Isaiah 60v1-9). The hope of this blessing to all people is not realised until the coming of God's own son (John 1v9-14).

READ LUKE 19v1-10

1. Why did Jesus come?

READ MATTHEW 28v16-20

2. What does Jesus command his followers to do? Why?

READ ROMANS 10v8-17 & 2 CORINTHIANS 5V14-6V2

3. What desires and convictions drive us to speak about Jesus?

4. What role does God give us in this mission?

5. Why is this task urgent?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4 & 1 THESSALONIANS 2v1-13

6. Why doesn't everyone believe the good news of Jesus?

7. How should we speak this message to unbelievers? Why should we do it this way?

8. What helps us to keep speaking, even when it's hard?

READ MATTHEW 9v37-38 & COLOSSIANS 4v2-6

9. Why should we pray for the salvation of others?

10. What kinds of things should we pray for?

11. Are you convinced that your family and friends need to hear about Jesus? Does Jesus' love compel you?

12. What is your biggest fear in speaking with them?

13. Share a recent story of a gospel conversation you've had.

Pull out your 5 4 Jesus card and pray for those you love to hear, repent and believe in the one who reconciles them to God.

After you've prayed, and if you've got time and energy, you can turn to page 21 to think more about what it means to be on MISSION TOGETHER. Don't worry if you don't get to it now, because you'll have another opportunity in the final study.



SERVE

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.)

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GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you're passionate about at **rockypc**?

Over the past few weeks as we've been thinking about our CORE VALUES, we've seen that we respond to God speaking by getting deep in his word; we respond to his character by seeking him in faith, prayer and praise and we respond to his salvation by being on mission to share Jesus with others. Today, we're thinking about how to respond to God's love by serving one another.

God's character has always been a motivator to care for others.

READ HIS WORDS TO ISRAEL IN DEUTERONOMY 10v14-19

1. How were Israel's actions to match their God?

READ 1 JOHN 4v7-21 AND PHILIPPIANS 2v1-11

2. As those who know Jesus, we see even more clearly God's great love, compassion and kindness. How does our love for brothers and sisters in Christ flow from the love he's shown us?

READ JAMES 1v17-27; 2v14-24

3. How does James flesh out what love (and faith in Jesus) look like?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12v4—13v7 AND ROMANS 12v3-16

4. What metaphor does Paul use to describe Jesus' church?

5. How does this show both the unity and diversity of people and gifts of God's Spirit?

6. If these are gifts of God's grace, how should we treat one another? (notice that 1 Corinthians 13 is talking about church relationships not marriage)

Below are some myth busters about spiritual gifts:

1. My gifts aren't very 'spiritual'!

Notice that there are a number of less 'spiritual' sounding gifts in the Romans passage above. If you are gifted at administration, that is just as helpful and necessary as teaching gifts. We want to be organised because it's more loving than chaos! So you can use whatever God has given you to love and build others up.

2. I don't see anything I'm gifted with in these lists.

Neither of these lists are exhaustive. They are just some examples of gifts God grants to his people to grow one another in Christ. You can look at other lists in Ephesians 4v1-16 or 1 Peter 4v8-11.

3. I don't have any gifts.

These gifts are for each member of Jesus' body, given without favouritism - so yes, you do!

4. I need a long questionnaire to know what my gifts are.

There is no magic formula to determine a precise gift. If you're not sure how you can serve, ask yourself some questions like 'What am I passionate about?' 'Where is there a need?' 'What could I have a go at?' Or talk with others, like Matt, about where they think your gifts might lie. It might be a case of trying things out until you find a niche or even growing into a role you've never considered before.

7. What would you say to someone who is concerned that their stage of life means they can't serve? For example if they have young kids, or are ill, or work is busy?

8. How would you encourage someone who is feeling burned out by serving?

9. How is serving more than just being in a formal team ministry, such as music or youth group?

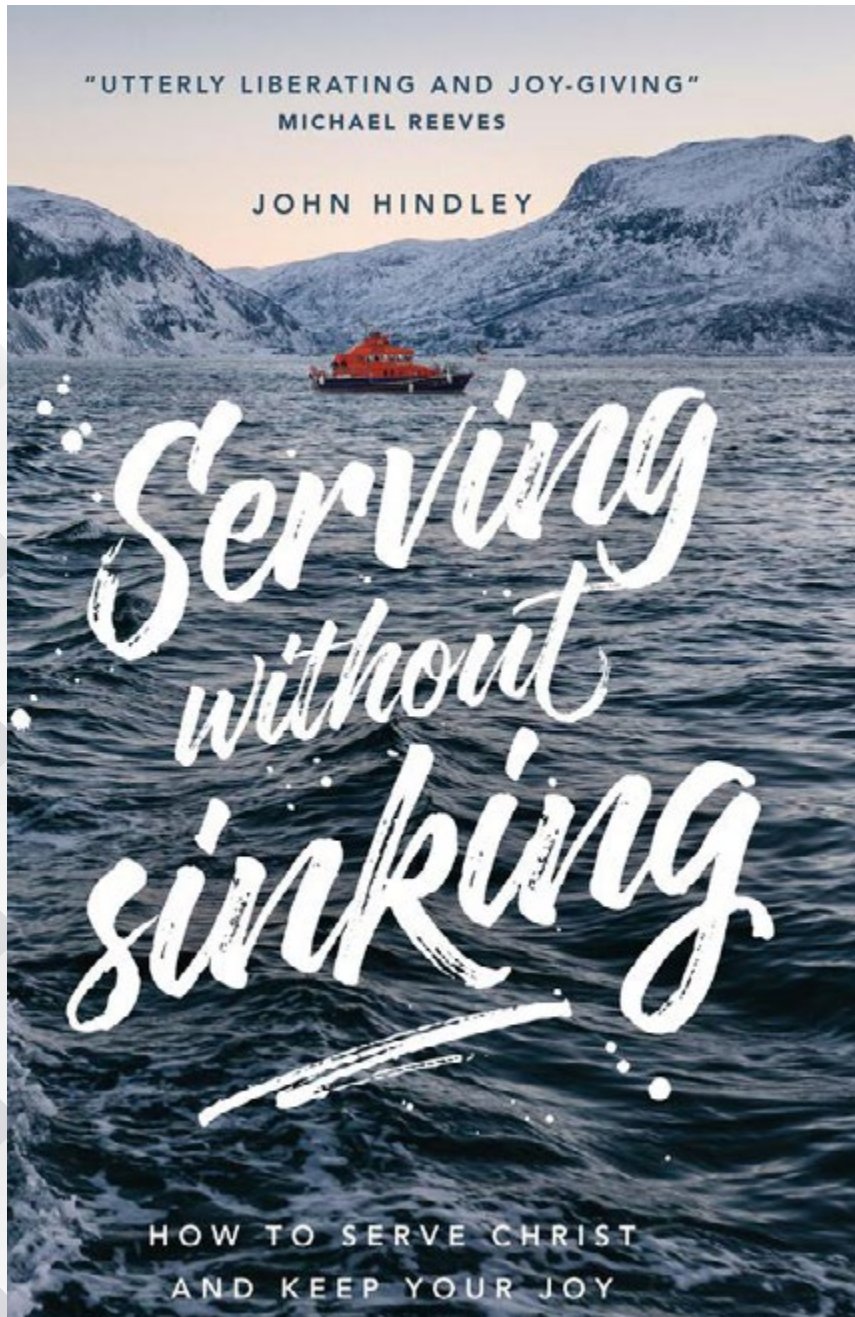
Spend a few minutes writing down the ways that you serve at church (both formal and informal). Are there ways that you'd like to serve, or areas of need that you could fill?

Ask for God's help to respond to his overflowing love and kindness with care and serving of others; that our desires and priorities would line up with his.

Thank God for giving you the gifts to serve in these ways so that you can show love to others as he's shown it to you.

Pray that Christ's body at **rockypc** would be built up as we serve one another.

If you want to think more about serving, grab a copy of this book.



[You can buy a copy here.](#)



COMMUNITY

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.)

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GETTING STARTED

What helps you feel connected at **rockypc**? What makes you feel disconnected?

READ EXODUS 19v1-8

1. What was the defining moment for Abraham's family, the Israelites, becoming God's people?

READ EPHESIANS 2v11-22

2. What is the defining moment that means Gentiles like us can become God's people?

3. How are God's people described here?

READ REVELATION 7v9-12

4. John has a vision of the hidden reality of God's throne in heaven.

5. What are God's people like? What are they doing?

6. How should this heavenly vision shape our earthly gatherings?

READ COLOSSIANS 3v1-7

7. What attitudes and actions mark out our relationships as God's chosen people?

8. How have others at **rockypc** demonstrated their new, Christ-like clothing to you?

READ HEBREWS 10v19-25

9. How does having Jesus as our High Priest determine the way we view **rockypc** (in all the different contexts that we meet together eg church on Sunday, growth groups and informally)?

10. Is meeting with God's people a habit for you?

11. Are you purposeful in encouraging others? How could you grow in this area?

READ ACTS 2v42-47

12. How did the first group of believers express their community?

13. How does this core value of community fit together with our other values (deep in the word, seeking God, on mission, serving) in this passage?

Acts 2 is a description of what happened at that time, and not a prescription of what believers at other times and in other contexts should do.

14. How do you think we should express community at **rockypc**?

15. How do we need to grow in this area?

16. How can you play a part in this?

Praise God that he has brought us together as his chosen people and that we have a treasured place in his plans. Ask for his help to live out this new community with one another in love, patience and forgiveness. Pray that we'd spur each other on in love and good deeds as we meet together, sharing our lives, our resources and our mission.

I AM rockypc

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GROWTH GROUP STUDY

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

How long have you been part of **rockypc**? What first brought you? What do you value most about it now?

Over the past 5 weeks, we've been digging into God's word to see 5 CORE VALUES that are a response to him, as well as the way we grow as Jesus' disciples. This week, we're going to tie it all together and ask how we can be involved.

READ ROMANS 12v1-2

1. How does God's mercy, in Jesus, drive us?
2. Jesus' sacrifice (like those in the Old Testament) was one of death. How can we be living sacrifices?
3. Does this describe your life? How do you want to give your life to Jesus in response to his mercy?

*Spend some time looking over the past 5 studies. If you missed one, get the group to summarise for you. If you'd like to answer any questions that you missed, especially in applying it to yourself and **rockypc**, then now is the time!*

If you want to spend more time thinking about what it means to be on MISSION TOGETHER, turn over and answer the questions there before finishing this study.

4. What's one truth that you want to sink deep into your mind, heart and actions from each CORE VALUE:

DEEP IN THE WORD

SEEKING GOD

MISSION

SERVE

COMMUNITY

Spend some time seeking God about these things now. Pray that you'd remember his extraordinary mercy and that your life/our lives would be given to Jesus in whole-of-life worship. Pray for us to be joyfully deep in the word, genuinely seeking God, urgently on mission and lovingly serving in a transformed community of Jesus' disciples.

God gave the apostles a special task in spreading the news of Jesus' death, resurrection and return. But this is a task that all believers carry on. The gospel comes to each of us, on its way to someone else. In love, we are all compelled to prayerfully speak to those in our lives who are facing judgement without Jesus. But there are some ways that we can share in this privilege together.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 14v1-5, 22-25

In this section, Paul is addressing the use of gifts within the family of believers. Here, the gift of speaking in tongues means praying to God in another language. By contrast, prophesying means speaking to people and applying God's word to them. You may have further questions here, but try not to get sidetracked from the main point!

1. Paul discusses both gifts with the expectation that when Christians gather together, non-believers will be present. Why should our church gatherings be understandable to not-yet Christians?
2. How does **rockypc** try to be outsider-friendly? How could we improve?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1v3-11

3. How does the Philippian church partner in the gospel with Paul?
4. How can we partner with each other at **rockypc** to see each other's friends and family come to Jesus?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4v14-19

5. In what other ways do the Philippians partner in sharing the gospel?
6. How do your attitude and actions match up to the Philippians?
7. How can financial giving grow the gospel at **rockypc**?
8. In what other ways can we help one another in our mission to friends, family and to our city?