



SEEKING GOD

VISION 2024

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak

SEEKING GOD

VISION 2024

growing disciples
with a love for God

SEEKING GOD IN 2024

The last few years have been important for **rockypc** as we've spent significant amounts of time working out what it means for us to be GROWING DISCIPLES WHO SACRIFICE, SERVE & SPEAK FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS. In 2021, we introduced our FIVE CORE VALUES which express what we'll focus on to ensure we keep growing. Since then, each year, we've considered how we can develop one of those CORE VALUES in our congregations, for the glory of Jesus in our city — SERVE (2022) and COMMUNITY (2023).

In 2024, our focus will be on what it means to SEEK GOD, because we want to remember that as we get DEEP IN THE WORD it's not simply about information in, but GOD'S WORD CALLS FOR A RESPONSE. We SEEK GOD by responding appropriately — as our understanding of God grows, so will our love for him: we'll praise him more; we'll have hearts filled with thanksgiving for all his generosity and goodness towards us; but we'll also be moved to lament, confession, humble repentance and a growing dependence on God in every situation. Our response to God will shape how we SERVE and engage in MISSION, all in COMMUNITY together.

Over four weeks, this VISION SERIES will consider more deeply how SEEKING GOD is linked to each of the other CORE VALUES. The GROWTH GROUP STUDIES will run before the sermon in order to get us thinking about the relationships that exist and hopefully form some meaningful connections for everyone.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday 5 November — DEEP IN THE WORD & SEEKING GOD

Sunday 12 November — SEEKING GOD & COMMUNITY

Sunday 19 November — SEEKING GOD & SERVE

Sunday 26 November — VISION SUNDAY — SEEKING GOD & MISSION

Please set aside significant time at the end of each study in order to pray about the things you've seen together. Please pray for the whole of **rockypc**, that we might all see how good it is to come to a Father in heaven who is good, generous, kind, powerful and active in our lives and our world.



WHEN GOD SPEAKS

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:

How do you like to say 'thank you' — Words? Card? Gift? Something else?

Today we're going to spend some time thinking about God's Word and how we should respond to it, from the book of Hebrews. We'll see how our core value of being DEEP IN THE WORD leads us to our value of SEEKING GOD.

READ HEBREWS 1v1-4

1. How did God speak in the past? Can you think of examples of the various ways?

2. How has God spoken in the last chapter of history?

3. Given all of this, what makes the Bible so special and important to listen to?

READ HEBREWS 3v7-14

Upon hearing God's voice, a whole generation of Israelites didn't enter the rest of the Promised Land.

4. What is the attitude to God's Word that we are in danger of copying?

5. How can we cultivate a different response to His Word?

READ HEBREWS 4v12-16

6. What is God's Word like? What does it do to our hearts?

7. When God's Word cuts us to the heart, where should we turn? What confidence can we have to do this?

READ HEBREWS 12v22-29

8. How should we respond to the living, speaking God and Jesus, our mediator?

READ HEBREWS 13v11-16

9. What sacrifice has already happened?

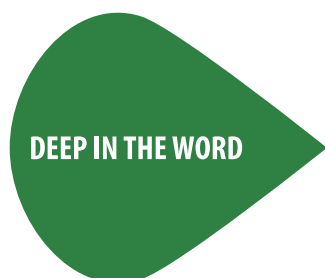
10. How can we respond with lives of sacrifice?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

Looking back over the past week, what have your thoughts and actions shown about your attitude to God's word?

How has his word been cutting you to the heart today? How will you respond? Are you confident in God's mercy as you turn to him?



Is **rockypc** a COMMUNITY that is DEEP IN THE WORD together? How can we help one another to respond to God's word with soft hearts, repentance and praise?



Theologian, Dr J I Packer, said 'The purpose of theology is doxology.' In other words, we study and learn things about God so that we can praise him.

To do that, you could choose a song or 2 to listen to from YouTube (or sing, if you're feeling brave) or you could read Psalm 96



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God as the living, speaking God. Praise him for speaking to us through Jesus, his majestic Son. Thank him for his word, the Bible so we can know him and hear his voice.
- Thank him that his word sees right into our hearts and exposes every hidden thing. Confess when your heart has been sinful and unbelieving, turning away from God. Turn to him in repentance. Confidently approach his throne of grace to find mercy, grace and help because of our great high priest, the Son of God. Ask his help to hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- Pray that we'd encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, that none of us would be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Ask for God's Spirit to strengthen us so that we'd hold our conviction to the end, sharing in Christ.
- Ask that we would have eyes to see the joyful assembly that we are part of now in the heavenly Jerusalem, praising the living God, the Judge of all and Jesus, our mediator.
- Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, pray that we'd be thankful, worshiping God with reverence and awe. Pray that our lips would continually offer a sacrifice of praise, professing Jesus' name because he suffered to make us holy. Pray that we'd respond with good works that please our Father.

SEEKING GOD IN 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.)

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:

Name a beautiful building. What do you admire about it? What is the purpose of the building?

Last week we looked at the book of Hebrews to see how God speaks to us in His Word. So we want to get DEEP IN THE WORD and respond by SEEKING HIM with soft hearts, full of praise. Today we are looking at the book of 1 Peter to see the way Jesus forms us into a COMMUNITY who SEEK HIM together.

READ 1 PETER 1v18-25

1. How are we redeemed? How are we born again?

2. Where does this lead us?

READ 1 PETER 2v4-8

3. What makes Jesus like a living stone?

4. How are we like living stones?

READ 1 PETER 2v9-10

5. How are we transformed — in who we are and in our purpose?

READ 1 PETER 4v7-11

6. How can God's people give him glory as a COMMUNITY, given that the end is near?

READ 1 PETER 4v12-5v11

7. How does suffering together bring God glory? 4v12-19, 5v8-11

8. God's flock has a particular shape, with shepherds and those who are led. How does this shape help us SEEK HIM together?

growing disciples

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Can we 'love Jesus but not the church'? Why/why not?



What makes God's people so special to him?

What needs to change in how you view our **rockypc** COMMUNITY?



How is **rockypc** declaring the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, as a COMMUNITY? Loving each other deeply from the heart? Praying? Standing firm together? Leading and submitting?

How do you think we need to grow in this? What part can you play?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that we've been purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Through him we believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, so our faith and hope are in God. Praise him that we've been born again through the living and enduring word of God.
- Thank him for building us into a spiritual house together, on Jesus, the cornerstone. Praise him for making us his chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his special possession.
- Pray that our **rockypc** COMMUNITY would declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once we were not a people, but now we're the people of God who have received his mercy.
- Confess when we've had too low a view of church in God's purposes. Pray that we'd glorify him by loving one another deeply from the heart.
- Ask that God's Spirit would draw us to prayerfully and humbly depend on our Father in prayer.
- Pray that we'd stand firm together as his family in suffering and that even that would be opportunity for God's praise. Ask that the shape of our COMMUNITY, with leading and submitting, would help us to SEEK HIM and his honour together.

SEEKING GOD BY SERVING

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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Something I Was Reminded About:

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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:

What's one way you love serving at **rockypc**? Tell us about it.

In our Vision series so far, we've seen how getting DEEP IN THE WORD cuts us to the heart, so we SEEK GOD in repentance and thanks. But we do this in COMMUNITY as God's special people by loving each other, praying and standing firm together. Today, we're going to see how we respond to Jesus' sacrifice by serving one another.

READ MATTHEW 16v21-27

1. How do Jesus' disciples follow him?

2. What gain is there in following a crucified Saviour?

READ MATTHEW 20v20-28

3. What was the Son of Man's purpose in coming to our world?

4. How do his disciples' priorities and actions differ from those around them?

READ MATTHEW 22v34-40

5. How are these two greatest commandments related?

READ MATTHEW 25v31-46

6. How do Jesus' people demonstrate they belong to him?

READ MATTHEW 18v1-14

7. What does Jesus want his disciples to value when it comes to his kingdom? How does this reflect what his Father values?

READ ROMANS 12v1-2

8. How should we respond to God's mercy? (see also Romans 5v6-11)

READ ROMANS 12v3-21

9. What stands out to you about the many ways we worship God by serving others?

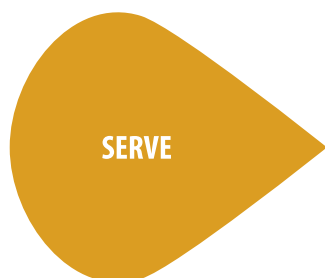
growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

How does Jesus' service of us motivate you to serve? Where do you need to repent and reorient your attitude towards him?

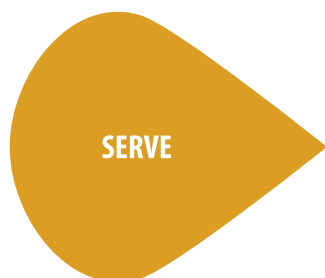


When you serve, how are you tempted to lord it over others? How can you grow in humility, love and generosity?



How do the current ways you serve at **rockypc** lead others to grow *as* disciples of Jesus or to grow *new* disciples? If you're not sure, can the group help you figure this out?

Are there ways you need to stop serving, or start serving in order to grow Jesus' kingdom? How will you go about this?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for sending Jesus to give his life as a ransom for many, that he went to the cross as a sacrifice to show us his mercy. Pray that we would be disciples who are like our master. That we'd deny ourselves and follow him.
- Pray that we'd respond to Jesus' love by loving others. Confess when we've failed to SERVE others, or done so without humility or generosity. Ask that we'd SERVE one another as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, with joy, patience and faith.
- Pray that as we SERVE, we'd lead others to SEEK GOD too. That we'd help others grow as disciples and grow new disciples. Ask for God's wisdom to know how to SERVE at **rockypc**.

SEEKING GOD ON 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.)

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's Word:

Have you ever seen someone else become a Christian, and played a part in the process? Tell us about what it was like.

Throughout our vision series we've looked at how we SEEK GOD in response to his WORD; how we're a COMMUNITY who SEEK HIM and our response of SERVING like the Son of Man who served us. Today, we'll see how the gospel transforms us, so that we're on MISSION to our world.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 1v2-10

1. How did the gospel of Jesus work powerfully in the lives of these people?

2. What effect did this have, even beyond their own city? v7-10

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2v1-12

3. What motivated Paul to tell the gospel despite strong opposition? (see Acts 16 for the story of false charges, beating, flogging and imprisonment that Paul endured in Philippi)

4. What do you notice about the way Paul shared the gospel?

5. Describe the relationship between the gospel message and the lives/actions of those who tell it.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4v13-5v11

6. What hope do we have in Jesus?

7. How does our hope differ from the beliefs of the rest of mankind?

8. How should we live, in view of the coming day?

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3v1-5

9. What does Paul want the Thessalonians to pray about?

10. How does God's character give hope and certainty, despite opposition to the message?

The gospel of Jesus works powerfully in us, turning us from idols to serve the living and true God. And it motivates us to share this same message to those without hope. And so we pray that God would bring more people into his kingdom.

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

How has the gospel transformed your life? Do you echo the Thessalonians' experience?

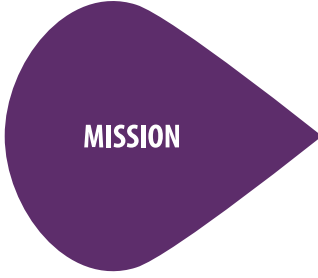
Are you looking forward to Jesus' return? How does this glorious future hope impact your life now?



Are you convinced to share the message of Jesus with others? What drives you? What holds you back?

Paul said he shared both the gospel and his life with the Thessalonians. Are you more likely to love without words or speak without love? How can you grow to be more like a gentle mother or an encouraging, urging father to those in your life who aren't part of Jesus' kingdom yet?





What purpose is there in praying for your friends and family to put their hope in Jesus?

At **rockypc**, we're praying for God to give 8000 new people to Jesus in Rockhampton and Gracemere in our generation, just for a start, because we want to reach the 80,000. We want to pray on this big scale, but also for particular people in our lives. Take a 5 4 JESUS card now. Spend a few minutes reading it and think of 5 people who you will commit to praying for over the next 12 months. Then spend some time praying together.

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Praise him for the hope we have that Jesus will return and we'll live with him forever. Thank him for his power that turned you from idols to serve the living God.
- Pray that our faith would ring out in our city. That we'd love others and share our lives with them. And that we'd speak the gospel with sincerity and kindness, even when there's opposition.
- Confess your lack of prayer for those who aren't yet saved, and your lack of confidence in God to be at work in them. Ask his help to diligently SEEK HIM, asking his help to share the gospel and our lives.
- Pray for God to give 8000 new people to Jesus in Rockhampton and Gracemere in our generation, just for a start. Pray for 5 friends and family members to know Jesus' salvation.