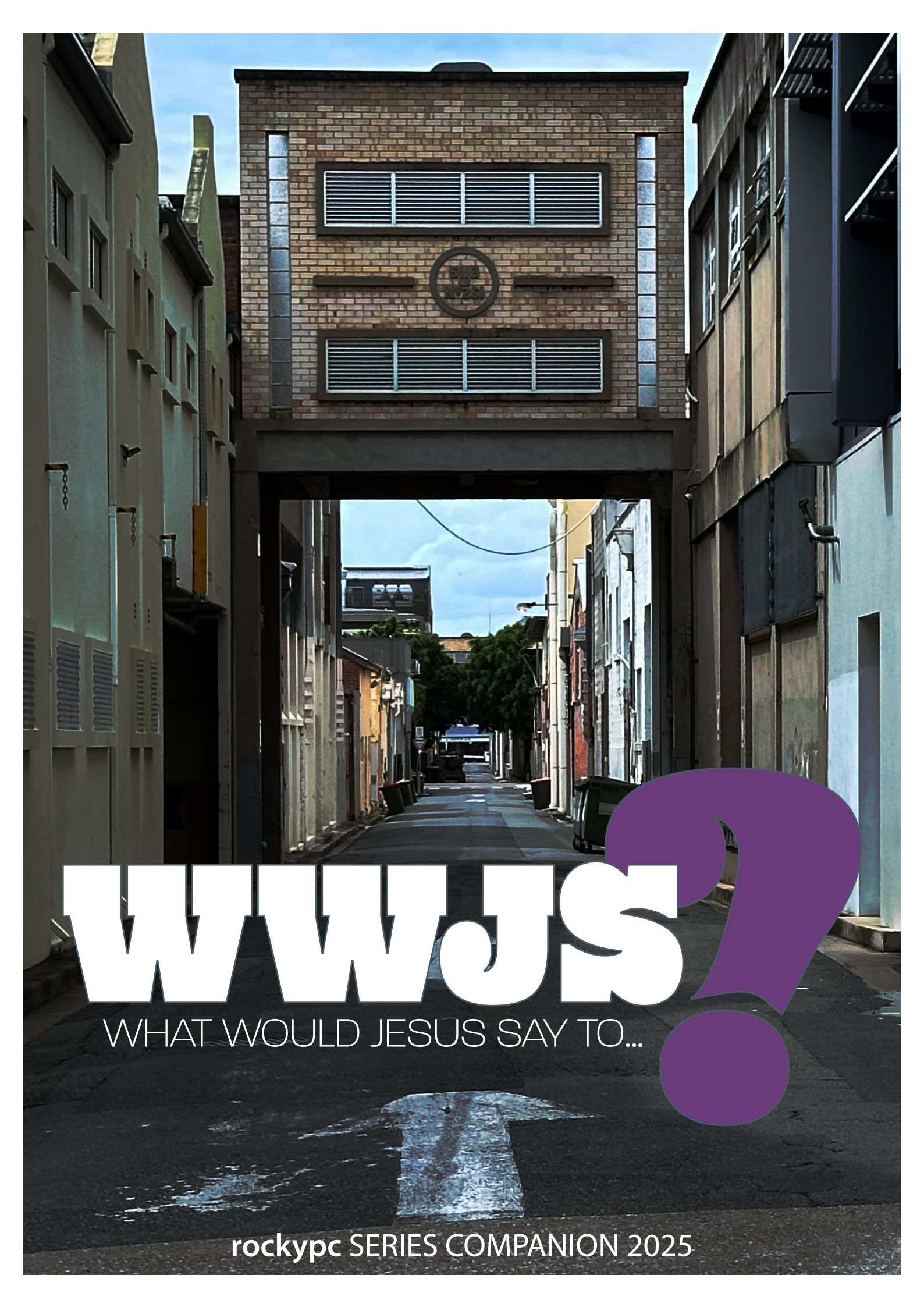


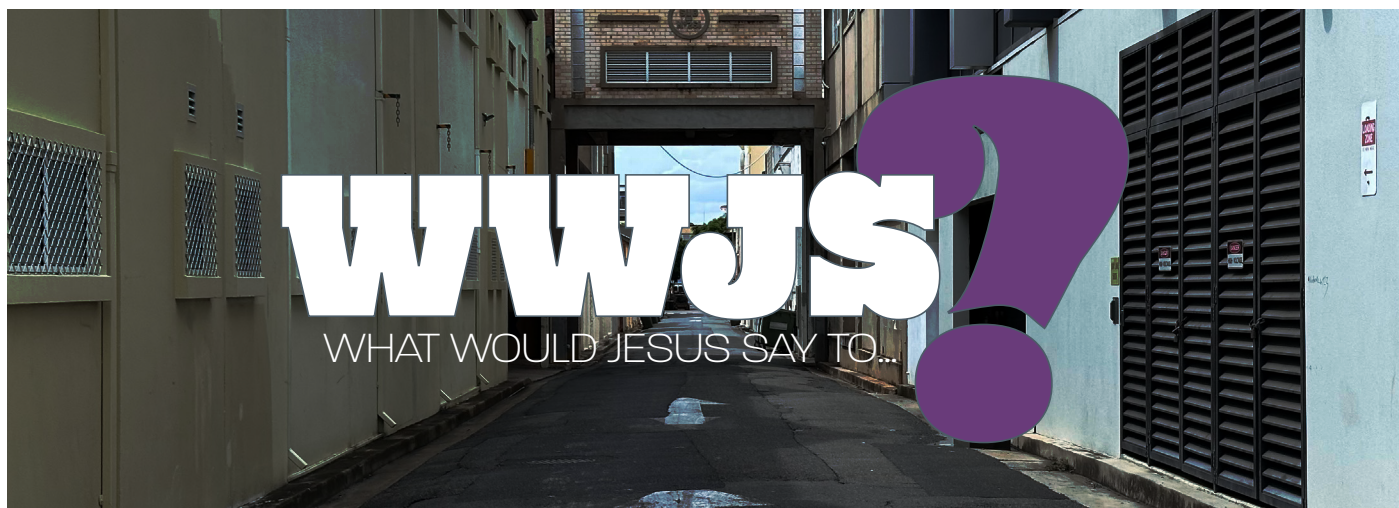
A photograph of a narrow alleyway in a city, flanked by brick buildings. A large, stylized purple question mark is overlaid on the right side of the image. The alleyway leads to a street with a white arrow painted on the pavement.

WWJS?

WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO...

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2025

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY?

We have family and friends of all different types, at various stages of meeting Jesus. Sometimes we're tongue-tied in knowing how to talk to them about him. Jesus meets all different types of people too. So we're going to spend a few weeks meeting some of them in Terms 2 and 3. We'll see what Jesus says to them. And what he might say to your friends and family.

We will watch a video or two each week, to help us see the way the world talks about the issues we face. You can find a transcript or subtitles on YouTube, if that is easier for you.

Our hope is that we'll see the beauty of Jesus in the interactions he has. And that you'll have confidence to talk to your friends and family. You can show how Jesus has a better answer than the world offers them, and how he answers our fears and longings.

8 PEOPLE

TERM 2

The Outsider

The High Achiever

The One in the Middle

The Isolated and lonely

TERM 3

The Leader

The Hard Worker

The One Who Has It All

The Calm and Sensible

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through each passage and watching each video. 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.

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.

DURING THE WEEK—Try out what we're learning in your conversations. Practice asking lots of questions to dig deeper into what your friends and family are thinking and why. You could learn the story, so that you can share that part of the Bible as you talk with them. Pray for those on your 5 4 Jesus card, because our God loves to save!

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.



THE OUTSIDER

MATTHEW 15v21-28

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:

Describe a time you felt like an outsider. What was that like?

Psychology and popular culture talk about a phenomenon called 'tribalism'. We try to find a sense of belonging with people like us. There are some positives to being in a 'tribe' and some people even say we should pursue it. While others point out the problems that this mindset creates and think we should try to minimise its effects. We're going to watch a video from each point of view to understand how tribalism operates in our culture (and within us).

WATCH 'Why we form tribes' by Simon Sinek

https://youtu.be/z8EVzdCBvoA?si=n6ovZVHNpcgpm_ID



1. What are some reasons we might pursue being in a tribe?

WATCH 'Tribalism and the Dangers of Us vs Them' by Thinking is Power with Melanie Trecek-King

<https://youtu.be/slDirqzPn34?si=H-8DVdMHwlzF9EhG>



2. What are some problems with tribal thinking?

Both videos gave suggestions about how to get along better such as focusing on shared values, being aware of our biases, developing empathy and emphasising our shared humanity. Let's explore how the Bible depicts tribes in the Old Testament and then see what Jesus would say to someone pushed to the outside by 'us vs them' thinking.

READ EXODUS 28v15-21; 29

3. What does the priest's ephod show us about what God thinks of the 12 tribes of Israel?

READ DEUTERONOMY 7v1-8

4. How would tribalism help Israel in the land?

READ JUDGES 12v1-6

5. How do Israel show the worst of tribalism in this incident?

The Lord established the tribes of Israel and they were precious to him. Separating themselves out from foreign nations allowed Israel to be pure and devoted to the Lord. But this wasn't because they were any better than other nations, but because in his faithfulness, God had chosen them. Israel often fail to be the holy people of God, not just by intermarrying (eg 1 Kings 11v1-13), but by destructive tribalism.
So what would Jesus say when he's faced with Israel's tribalism?

READ MATTHEW 15v21-28

6. What makes this woman an outsider?

7. Why do you think Jesus is silent at her first request for mercy, then seems to refuse her twice?

8. What does she recognise about Jesus, and about herself?

Jesus seems to be restating the common thinking of Israelites — as God's chosen people, holy and in special relationship with him. This grates against our modern awareness of racism and inequality. Jesus' sparring with the woman draws out her faith. And Jesus' actions speak volumes to those on the outside, as he heals the Canaanite daughter, and as he crosses back into Israelite territory.

READ MATTHEW 15v29-38

9. How does Jesus demonstrate his care and compassion for the outsider? (compare v27-28 with v36-38)

READ REVELATION 7v4-10

10. In John's vision of the heavenly throne room, what unites the tribes of Israel and other tribes?

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.

What surprises you about Jesus' response to an outsider? What delights you?



SEEKING GOD

Do we have to become uniform (the same) to be united as Christ's people?

What needs to change in the way you treat other Christians who are different from you?

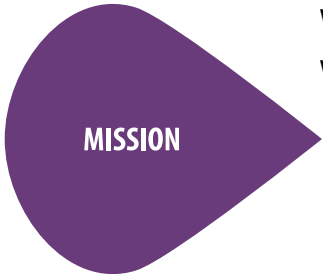


COMMUNITY

Who are you treating as an outsider?

What can you say to the outsiders you know (those who are far from Jesus)?

What needs to change in your approach?



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God, for Jesus who has abundant mercy for outsiders. Praise him for reaching beyond the people of Israel in compassion and gentleness.
- Thank him for including us in his people, even though we were far away from him.
- Pray that **rockypc** would reflect the heavenly throne room, where we are diverse, yet united in praise of our Saviour. Ask forgiveness for treating other Christians as outsiders. Pray that everyone in our COMMUNITY would have a sense of belonging, because we all belong to Jesus.
- Pray that we'd have Jesus' heart for those who are different from us. Pray that we would reach out to those who don't yet know him. Pray that we'd share his kindness and grace for those who haven't yet received it.



THE HIGH ACHIEVER

LUKE 18v9-14

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:

What's your biggest achievement in life?

Our culture is driven by success and holds up high achievers as models for us to aspire to — they have the inside track. If we just dream big enough and work hard enough, we can achieve all of our goals too. But being a high achiever, isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Watch 'Why High Achievers Feel Like Failures Despite Success?' by Coach Soul

<https://youtu.be/v3C5D6S9tCk?si=jZrFJKgN27kKzhqn>



1. According to Coach Soul, what are some benefits of being a high achiever?
2. What do high achievers struggle with? What do they fear?
3. What does Coach Soul suggest to do if you're a high achiever feeling like a failure?

READ ECCLESIASTES 2v4-11

4. How does this high-achieving King of Israel feel after he has made great achievements?

We know the emptiness of achievements. Yet we fear that we won't be enough without them. Our world gives us lots of advice about self-love, or enjoying what we've done with gratefulness or living in the moment, so that we can keep on achieving. Sometimes our achievements lead us to despair and emptiness. But often they lead us to pride, boasting and destruction.

READ DANIEL 4v29-35

5. What is King Nebuchadnezzar's attitude to all of his achievements?
6. How does the Most High respond to Nebuchadnezzar?

READ LUKE 18v9-14

7. What achievements is the Pharisee proud of? What makes him an 'insider'?

8. What do his achievements get him, as far as God is concerned?

9. In contrast, what does the Tax Collector realise he needs?

10. Put Jesus' message to the high achievers in your own words?

READ EPHESIANS 2v4-10

11. How can the grace of God transform how we think about our achievements, and our worthiness of love?

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.

Do you fear that you're unworthy of love when you can never achieve enough? How does God's grace speak into that feeling

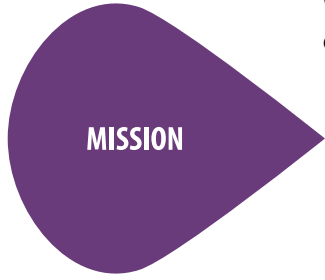


SEEKING GOD

Do your achievements lead you to boasting or looking down on others? How do Jesus' words challenge you?



SEEKING GOD



What can you say to the high achievers you know? Are there thoughts and feelings you can resonate with? How can the gospel tell a better story?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for the riches of his kindness to us in saving us through Jesus. Thank him that it's not our achievement, but his gift.
- Praise God that he lavishes his love and grace on us, even though we don't deserve and can't earn it.
- Ask forgiveness for boasting about our achievements and looking down on others.
- Pray that God would grow our humility and awareness of our need for his mercy, in our sinfulness.
- Pray for our friends and family who face the pride and despair that come with striving to achieve. Ask God's wisdom to share the gospel story of the Saviour who gives salvation freely and unearned, to the unworthy.

A photograph of a narrow alleyway between modern buildings. The alleyway is paved and leads towards a bright light at the end. The buildings have various architectural details like balconies and windows. A semi-transparent dark overlay covers the top half of the image, containing the title text.

THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE

JOHN 3v1-21

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:

Did it take you a long time to decide to become a disciple of Jesus? Or was it a quick change of heart/mind?

WATCH Redefining the Middle Child Stereotype: Life From the Middle by Vivian Wang at TEDx Valencia High School

<https://youtu.be/PTL-tk13vyY?si=j0SRrHjlaeG3gmyw>



1. What is hard about being stuck in the middle?

We're not talking about birth order today, but about being in the middle — not quite an insider and not quite an outsider. We can be caught in the middle of being interested in knowing God, but not willing to commit.

READ DEUTERONOMY 6v1-9

2. What do Israel need to hear as they stand at the edge of the Promised Land? What does he want from their hearts and lives?

READ JOSHUA 24v14-22

3. What is Israel's commitment to the LORD?
4. Can they be faithful? What do you know of Israel's story?

The LORD wants wholehearted love from his people, Israel. They can't sit on the fence. But as Joshua hints, they will fail and suffer the consequences of their unfaithfulness in a shameful exile. As Jesus enters the scene over a thousand years after Joshua, he meets another Israelite in the middle.

READ JOHN 3v1-2

5. What is Nicodemus' position? What does he know?

Nicodemus looks like an insider and high achiever with status and piety in the ruling class. Yet, he's intrigued by Jesus. He's still on the fence, coming to Jesus under the cover of dark, perhaps so he can remain unseen and unnoticed by other religious people.

READ JOHN 3v3-8

6. Does being a righteous Pharisee guarantee Nicodemus entry into God's kingdom? What does he need in order to be able to see the kingdom?

READ JOHN 3v9-18

7. What does this Israelite teacher fail to understand about God and his Son?

Jesus refers to an incident from Israel's history when they were wandering in the wilderness, before entering the Promised Land. The LORD sent snakes as a judgement, because of Israel's impatient complaining. Then the LORD told Moses to make a bronze snake and lift it up on a pole. 'Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.' Numbers 21v9

READ JOHN 3v19-21

8. Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark (v2). What is Jesus' invitation to him?

We don't know how Nicodemus left this conversation with Jesus, we just move to another scene in v22. Was he convinced? Would he step into the light and believe in the Son?

READ JOHN 7v37-52; 19v38-42

9. What hints do we get that Nicodemus may have stepped out of the shadowed, non-committal middle and into the light?

2 PETER 3v8-15

Nicodemus' story suggests that it took him some time to decide to believe in Jesus.

10. Do we have a long time or a short time to share the gospel of Jesus' salvation?

11. How might this shape the way we share the news of Jesus?

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.



Are you sometimes stuck in the middle when it comes to Jesus, half-hearted or non-committal? How have you been challenged or encouraged today?



Can you think of any of your friends or family who are in the middle? Who are interested, but not whole-hearted? What could you say to them?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for sending his Son, in his love for us. Praise him that we can be born into his kingdom, by his Spirit. Pray that we would believe in the Son and receive eternal life.
- Ask forgiveness for not loving the LORD wholeheartedly. Pray that we would step into the light and into truth.
- Pray for friends and family who are in the middle — those who are interested in Jesus, but haven't yet committed to him in faith. Ask for more opportunities to invite them to step into the light, seeing and knowing his love.
- Ask that we'd have patience in speaking about Jesus, waiting to see how God might work to bring them into his kingdom.
- Pray that we'd have urgency to speak, knowing that Jesus will return soon.



THE ISOLATED & LONELY

JOHN 4

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:

What do you think makes us crave relationships (of all kinds, not just romantic)?

WATCH How Dangerous Is Loneliness, Really? by SciShow Psych

https://youtu.be/GdcDKpLUajs?si=0qWHI-G3_iofsvcW



1. What stood out to you about the impact of loneliness?

Loneliness has been described as a worldwide epidemic. We long to be known and understood. We long to share our lives with others who care about us. It's how we were made. Perhaps you are feeling lonely right now. It's likely that many of your family and friends are struggling with loneliness.

READ GENESIS 1v26-28; 2v15-25

2. How are relationships part of the fabric of who we are?
3. Is the message of Genesis 2 that marriage is the cure for loneliness? Why or why not?

READ GENESIS 3

4. How does the first sin cause the first episode of loneliness?

We seek out relationships and connection, as we were made to do. But we also know the pain and bitterness that comes with isolation, being misunderstood or experiencing broken relationships. The video we watched earlier had a few hints about how to overcome the loneliness we feel. But what would Jesus say?

READ JOHN 4v4-17

5. What has made this woman isolated in her community?
6. How does Jesus treat her in her loneliness? What is his manner with her?

7. How does Jesus answer her thirst for relationship? How does he offer even more than she's asking for?

READ 1 JOHN 4v7-12

8. How is our relationship with God intertwined with our relationships with 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 has Jesus satisfied your thirst for relationship with him?

If you have grown distant from him, how can you draw near?



SEEKING GOD

Do you feel lonely? What do you feel is lacking in your relationships? (You may want to just write this down, rather than share out loud)

How can the love of Jesus lead you to seek/repair/grow your relationships with others?



SEEKING GOD

Who do you know who is lonely? How can you point them to the living water?

How can you be a friend to them and give them a taste of our Christian COMMUNITY?



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for making us to be in relationship with him and one another. Praise him for Jesus, who is the living water that wells up to eternal life. Praise him that, in his love, Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Pray that we would turn to Jesus in times of loneliness and isolation.
- Pray that we would love others, out of the love God has shown us. Pray that we would step closer in relationships, in forgiveness, patience and courage.
- Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with family and friends who experience loneliness. Pray that they might be satisfied in him. And that we would be a COMMUNITY that welcomes others in and loves them.



THE LEADER

JOHN 13

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:

WATCH How The World's Most Powerful Women Define Power | Forbes

<https://youtu.be/D3IzFbmYFsc?si=bl9j1cY6keNc8ZIB>

What is the power of a leader, according to these business leaders?



WATCH LION MENTALITY - Motivational Video | Ben Lionel Scott

<https://youtu.be/ERCIHCOF14c?si=Jw-OizVa3rScIWpA>

This video combines the voices of Ray Lewis, former professional footballer and Eric Thomas, motivational speaker.

According to the video, what mentality should leaders have?



Being a leader comes with some inherent power and influence. Leaders often long for status, prestige and power. This desire lurks in all of us, wherever and whomever we lead. We want to be listened to and we want to get our way. What would Jesus say to the leader seeking power or wanting to know how to use it?

READ JOHN 13v1-5

1. What motivates Jesus as he nears his death?

2. What kind of power does Jesus have?

3. How does Jesus use his power as a leader?

READ JOHN 13v6-11

4. What do you think is making Simon Peter uncomfortable with Jesus washing his feet? How does he get it wrong?

5. What does Jesus say the foot washing is really about?

6. How does Jesus cleanse us? (see also Ephesians 5v23-27)

READ JOHN 13v12-17

7. What do the Lord and Teacher's actions lead his disciples to do? Why?

8. What is the result of washing others' feet?

READ JOHN 13v34-35

9. How are Jesus' love and our love for others intertwined?

growing disciples

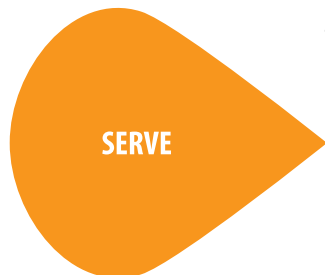
At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

How have you experienced Jesus' cleansing?

Has it been hard for you to accept that the Lord of all would humble himself to serve you?



How do you use the leadership power you have in different situations? Are you tempted to seek and use power for your own prestige and to get what you want?





How will Jesus' love and service motivate you to love others differently at **rockypc**, at home, at work, in our city?



What could you say to your not-yet believing friends/family who are leaders? How can your love for them point to the one who loved them at the cross?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus loved us to the end. That in love, he gave his life to cleanse and restore us.
- Praise God for putting all things under Jesus' power. Thank him for not holding on to his power or seeking his own prestige. Praise Jesus for humbly stooping down in service to us. Praise him for suffering the shame and agony of the cross for us.
- Pray that Jesus' love would well up in us, that we might follow his example. Ask forgiveness for when we are self-seeking and use our power as leaders to get what we want or even to hurt others. Pray that, like our Lord and Teacher, we would serve others in loving humility.
- Pray that our **rockypc** COMMUNITY would be filled with leaders who love and serve. Pray that all our relationships would be cross-shaped.
- Ask that our friends and family might be drawn to Jesus as they see the way he loves us and the way we love each other.



THE HARD WORKER

LUKE 10v38-42

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:

WATCH Jennifer Lopez On Her Work Ethic: 'Work Harder Than Everyone Else' | Variety

<https://youtu.be/xNRy7c1sHEc?si=giBk6iSAGsa9eUQD>

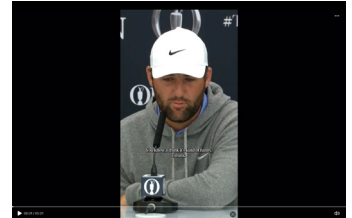
How does JLo's attitude to hard work reflect what our society believes about success?



WATCH Reflections on Winning: Scottie Sheffler's Journey | TikTok

<https://www.tiktok.com/@golfdigestofficial/video/7527278114590739743>

How is Scottie Sheffler wrestling with hard work, success and fulfilment as a professional golfer?



As Australians, we really value hard work. We look down on colleagues who don't pull their weight. We love to be the one who puts in the hours to get the job done. But what will Jesus say when he meets a hard worker?

READ LUKE 10v38-40

1. What are the two sisters doing as they open their home to the Lord Jesus?

2. What is Martha's complaint?

3. What does this show about how she sees Jesus?

READ LUKE 10v41-42

4. How does Jesus contrast what Mary and Martha have chosen?

This episode with the two sisters comes in the larger story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. He has set his face resolutely towards the cross (Luke 9v51). And various people he meets on the way demonstrate what it looks like to follow him to the cross (or not) see 9v21-26. So we need to see the short story of Mary and Martha in this broader context. There is more to it than 'read your Bible more' or 'don't work on a Sunday so you can come to church'.

READ LUKE 6v46-49

5. What does it mean to truly call Jesus, 'Lord'?

READ LUKE 8v14-21

6. How are Mary and Martha demonstrating their attitude to God's word?

7. What is the result of each attitude?

READ LUKE 10v21-24

8. What makes sitting at Jesus' feet and listening the 'one thing that's needed'?

READ LUKE 10v25-37

Luke has told us about the Good Samaritan episode directly before the Mary and Martha story. Jesus tells the Jewish law expert to go and do something — show mercy, right before he commends Mary for sitting at his feet rather than doing.

9. How do you think these two stories fit together?

Bear in mind the context that we've been reading about, as Jesus heads towards his death in Jerusalem.

growing disciples

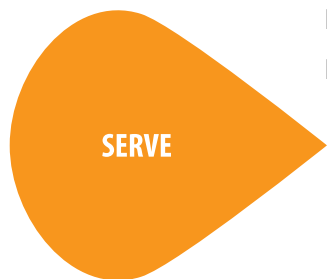
At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

What is your attitude towards the Lord Jesus? How are you tempted to be like Martha?

What will help you in these moments?



SEEKING GOD



What is your attitude towards hard work?

Is listening to Jesus in his word just another thing to do?

How can you learn from Mary's example?



How could you share the one thing that is needed with your friends who are hard workers?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for revealing himself to us through his Son Jesus. Thank God that we can know him as we hear Jesus' words. Thank God for this great blessing.
- Pray that we would love to sit at Jesus' feet because he is our Lord. Pray that we would know this is the one thing that is needed. Ask that as we listen to him, we would build our lives on his words. Ask his help to put them into practice.
- Ask forgiveness for being distracted by our worries, riches and pleasures. Confess that we crowd out God's word from sinking into our hearts. Pray that we would hear, retain and persevere in producing a crop.
- Confess that we like working hard to earn our way. Say sorry for the times we look down on others who don't work as hard as us. Pray that whatever we do would flow out of a heart that knows God's kindness to us. Pray that listening to Jesus would overflow in mercy towards others.
- Pray for friends and family who are hard workers. Ask that we'd have opportunity to share the one thing that is needed with them. Pray that they might encounter the Lord Jesus and rest at his feet too.

The background image is a photograph of a narrow, paved alleyway between modern, multi-story buildings. The buildings have various architectural details like balconies, windows, and air conditioning units. The alleyway leads towards a brighter area in the distance. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the title text in white.

THE ONE WHO HAS IT ALL

LUKE 18v15-30

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:

WATCH Money for Love, Power, Freedom or Security – Which One are You? | Man of Many

<https://youtu.be/nQNJwELmCew?si=yx4W1XU5AW3cItCR>

Here are a couple of questions to help you think about what money means to you. You can find the full quiz at <https://www.abingdonpress.com/saving-grace/>

Money is important because it allows me to ...

- a. Do what I want to do.
- b. Feel secure.
- c. Get ahead in life.
- d. Buy things for others.

When indecisive about a purchase, I often tell myself ...

- a. It's only money.
- b. It's a bargain.
- c. It's a good investment.
- d. He/she will love it.

Does money mean a. Freedom, b. Security, c. Power or d. Love to you?



Relative to many parts of the world, Australians seem to 'have it all'. We own houses, cars, sufficient food, clothes etc. And as we saw above, money means different things to us. Having money can mean a sense of freedom to do what we like, or give us the security of stability and protection, or a sense of power with success and control or perhaps it means a way to express love as we build relationships. When Jesus meets someone who seems to have it all, he says some pretty confronting things. But first, we see him meet those who have nothing.

READ LUKE 18v15-17

1. What do you think it is about children that typifies who will receive and enter God's kingdom?

READ LUKE 18v18-21

2. Has this ruler taken to heart what Jesus has just said about children?
What does he think he needs to be able to inherit eternal life/the kingdom of God?

READ LUKE 18v22-25

3. How does Jesus show that this man who 'has it all' is actually lacking something?

4. What does Jesus' parable about a camel and a needle show about riches?

READ LUKE 18v26-30

5. What is the crowd's concern? Should they be worried?

6. What is Peter's concern? Do those who give up everything to follow Jesus lose out?

As we saw last week, Jesus is on his way to the cross. And he says that following him won't be easy. Let's see the bigger context to Jesus' conversation with the man who has it all.

READ LUKE 6v20-26

7. What is our perspective on riches now and later?

READ LUKE 14v25-35

8. Does Jesus really mean we have to give up *everything* to follow him?

READ LUKE 16v13-15

9. What is it about money that makes it hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God/have eternal life?

growing disciples

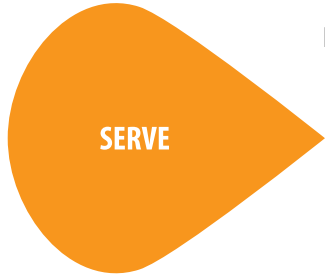
At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD**, **SEEKING GOD**, on **MISSION**, as we **SERVE** in **COMMUNITY** together.

Do you think you're rich? How does money interfere with your love for God?

How can you receive eternal life like a child?

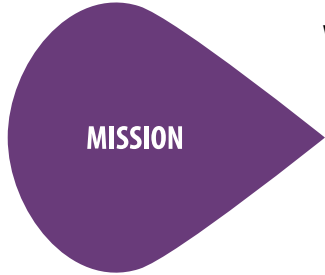


SEEKING GOD



What has following Jesus cost you?

Is it worth it?



How can you share this story with your friends/family who have it all?

What will they see about Jesus in your approach to money and possessions?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he is true treasure. He is infinitely worthy of our love, devotion and worship. Pray that we would love him wholeheartedly.
- Thank him that we can receive his kingdom with empty hands. It is a precious gift!
- Ask forgiveness for our love of money, whether it gives us freedom, security, power or love. Pray that our riches would never hinder us from entering God's kingdom.
- Pray that we would know that if we have Jesus, we have it all. Pray that we'd give up everything to follow him.
- Praise God that he is generous to give us freedom, security, power and love in this age and the next, through Jesus.
- Pray that God would give us opportunity to speak to family and friends who have it all. That they would see Jesus is worth following, better than riches or possessions. Pray that they would see this lived out in us.



THE CALM & SENSIBLE

JOHN 9

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: