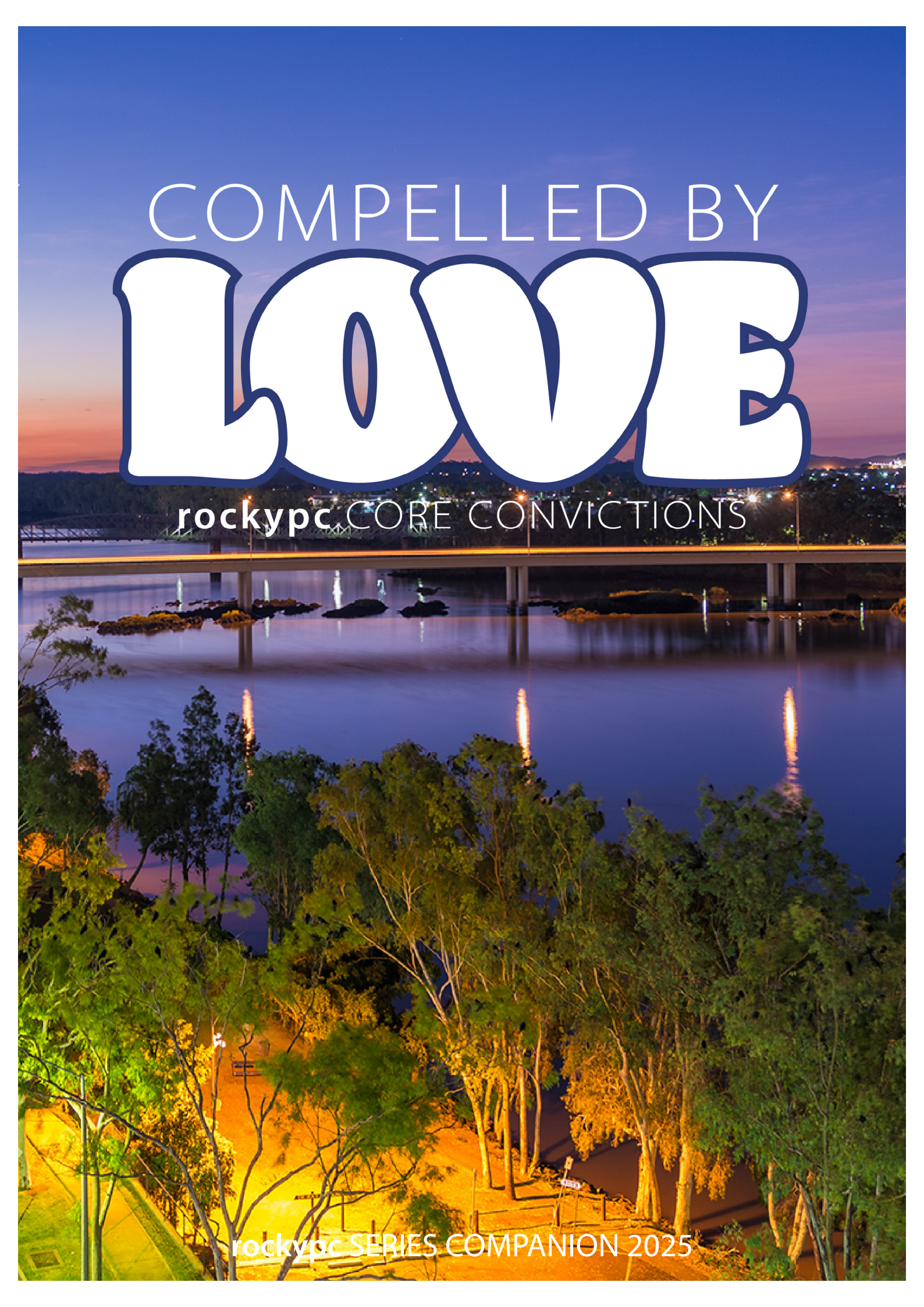




# COMPELLED BY **LOVE**

rockypc CORE CONVICTIONS

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2025

*growing  
disciples*  
sacrifice. serve. speak





## **2025 VISION SERIES**

### **4 CORE CONVICTIONS**

We're spending 5 weeks thinking through the central beliefs that drive everything we do as a church. They represent God's heart for humanity and we want them to be our heartbeat too. These are the convictions that drive why we want to provide a warm welcome as newcomers arrive at church, to why we teach our children from God's word, why we regularly run series for our friends and family to investigate life with Jesus, and why we work hard to have a clean building. Everything we do at **rockypc** is driven by these convictions.

- 1. Heaven and hell are real**
- 2. Jesus really lived, died and rose again**
- 3. Jesus reigns supreme**
- 4. So, compelled by love, we want everyone to know about Jesus**

And we will spend the final week thinking through the implications for our priorities.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

These studies will draw together lots of different Bible passages to see how these convictions arise. We will spend most of our time hearing about God's heart and responding to him. But there will also be opportunity to respond in reaching out to the thousands of people in our city who are without hope and without God. Join us in working and praying so that they might be reconciled to God!

### **HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION**

**ON YOUR OWN**—Take your time reading through each passage. 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.

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.



# HEAVEN & HELL

## MATTHEW 13v44-50

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 does this cartoon capture what our society thinks about heaven and hell?

This term, we are thinking through the CORE CONVICTIONS we hold at **rockypc**. They drive everything we do, because they reflect God's own heart for his world. As we think them through over 5 weeks, our prayer is that they will resonate in your heart too.

**READ MATTHEW 8v5-13; 10v28; 13v36-50; 25v31-46**

1. What do we learn about heaven and hell?



**READ ISAIAH 65v17-19; 66v12-16; v22-24**

2. How is Jesus drawing on Isaiah's words of warning and comfort to God's people, Judah, in exile?

**READ GENESIS 3v22-24**

3. How is this the story of all of humanity?

'The term rendered as "hell" (sometimes transliterated as Gehenna) is the Greek term *geenna*, which derives from the Hebrew *gê hinnôm*, which means "Valley of Hinnom." Contrary to a popular and long-running misunderstanding, there is no evidence that the Valley of Hinnom was ever used as a garbage dump. Among first century Jews, Hinnom was best known as the site of child sacrifices to the idol Molech during the era of the kings (2Kgs. 16:3; 21:6) and where God's judgment would eventually fall on his enemies. Child sacrifice so provoked the Lord to anger that Jeremiah prophesied God would destroy these idolaters in the Valley of Hinnom and would leave their corpses to rot. There would be so many corpses that there would be no room to bury them all and that the valley would be renamed "Valley of Slaughter" (Jer. 7:31-34, NIV).

This valley's association with fire and judgment is the background for the term's appearance in the Gospels, where Jesus refers to Gehenna as the place of final judgment (Jeremias). Twice in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus calls it the "hell of fire" (Matt. 5:22, 18:9). In Mark's Gospel also, Jesus describes hell as a place where the worm never dies (Mark 9:48a) and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:43, 48b)...

The traditional Christian account of hell says that it is a place of eternal conscious torment for the unrepentant. The Bible teaches that this final state of the damned has at least three characteristics: final separation, unending experience, and just retribution.'

*Hell as Endless Punishment | An Essay by Denny Burk | The Gospel Coalition*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/hell-as-endless-punishment/>



## MISSION

What aspect of Jesus' teaching on hell do you find most uncomfortable/hard to believe?

What about your not-yet Christian friends and family — what don't they like about it?

Are you ever tempted to change/water down the realities of hell?

### READ MATTHEW 5v1-12; 16v24-27

4. How does the future eternal reality reach into the present? ie How does the future shape the now?

### READ MATTHEW 5v27-30; 7v13-14

5. What will it take to avoid the fires of hell?

### READ MATTHEW 13v44-46; 6v19-24; 7v21-23

6. What will it take to enter life in the kingdom of heaven?

### READ HEBREWS 9v26b-28

7. How does Jesus secure salvation and judgement?



## *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 is the kingdom of heaven your treasure?

Are you doing whatever it takes to avoid hell?

How can you have confidence that you have and will enter life?



SEEKING GOD

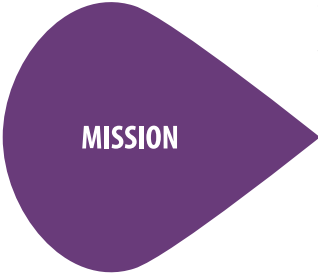
How does the future reality impact you now?



COMMUNITY

What is your reaction to the thought that your friends and family, our city and our world are hurtling towards Jesus' judgement and eternity away from him?

What will you do as a result?



MISSION

### PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus bore our sin and curse so that we can enter life with him. Pray that we would treasure the kingdom of heaven so that we would give up everything to enter it. Pray that knowing Jesus and being known by him would be the most precious thing to us.
- Ask God's help to gouge out our sin so that we would avoid hell at all costs.
- Pray that we would see the hell is a place of eternal agony, outside of Jesus' presence. Ask God's help to face this difficult truth with confidence in God's good judgement. Pray that we wouldn't water down or avoid speaking about hell. Pray for those facing God's judgement and for opportunities to speak of the hope of life through Jesus.



# THE FACT OF THE CROSS

## 1 Peter 2v24-25

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 makes it hard to talk about the topic of sin?

Last week, we saw our first rockypc CORE CONVICTION — Heaven and Hell are real. Which leads us to the second CORE CONVICTION, where we see what God has done about the problem of his right anger and judgement against sinners.

**READ LUKE 18v31-34; 19v10; 1 TIMOTHY 1v15**

1. Jesus resolutely went to Jerusalem and the cross (9v51). What made him decide to endure such suffering?

Jesus was single-minded in going to the cross. It was his highest priority, even though there were many other good things he could have done with his power and authority. But it makes us wonder what makes sin such a big deal that sinners would need saving.

**READ GENESIS 2v24-3v12**

2. What is the sin of the first people? Think of as many different ways as you can to describe it.

3. What effects does their sin immediately have?

**READ ROMANS 1v18-23; MARK 7v14-23**

4. Are we all sinners? How do you know?

5. What is the root of our sin?

6. How is this different from how our culture views evil?



Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners whose hearts have rebelled against their Creator. Let's see how he does this.

READ ROMANS 5v6-11; 1 PETER 2v24-25

7. How does Jesus' death on the cross deal with our sin?

8. What do we receive as a result of the cross?

9. How does the cross show the seriousness of our sin and our deepest need?

*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 your sin is serious enough to need Jesus to die in your place?

How is the cross your only hope?

How can you express this to God?



SEEKING GOD

If the salvation of sinners was Jesus' priority, should it be yours?

What do you need to change so that your life reflects this priority?



SEEKING GOD



Which of your family and friends struggle with the idea that they are sinners in need of a saviour?

How can you talk to them about Jesus' death on the cross to answer their longings and their objections?

#### **PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Praise him for enduring the cross so that he might seek and save the lost. Thank God for his single-mindedness in this purpose.
- Confess that we are sinners in desperate need. We are rebellious and disobedient at heart. We want to decide good and evil for ourselves. We grasp at good things in envy, and call God a miser. We fail to glorify him as our powerful God and Creator. Confess that our sinful actions rise up from the evil desires in our hearts.
- Praise God for demonstrating his love for sinners as Christ died for us. Thank God that Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross. Praise God that as we put our faith in Christ, we no longer face his anger. Delight that our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God.
- Pray that the salvation of others would be our priority, just as it is Jesus'. Ask that we would do whatever it takes to see others saved.
- Pray for our family and friend who don't think they're sinners and don't think they need a saviour. Ask that we'd share our need for Jesus, our only hope. Pray that the cross would answer their longings and objections.



# **JESUS REIGNS SUPREME**

## **COLOSSIANS 1v15-20**

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:

If you were king/queen for a day, what kind of ruler would you be? How do you think others would describe you and your priorities?

Our first two CORE CONVICTIONS have focused on the reality of heaven and hell; and that Jesus really lived, died and rose again. Today, we're looking at the implications of this for who Jesus is, and how we can respond.

**READ COLOSSIANS 1v15-20**

1. What is so good about Jesus? List as many things as you can see here.

2. How do these things give Jesus supremacy in everything?

**READ REVELATION 1v12-18**

3. How do these images portray Jesus' supremacy?

4. Should we be afraid of one so glorious?

**READ ACTS 2v22-36**

5. What did David foresee about his Lord?

**READ ACTS 2v37-39; 17v22-31**

6. What does his resurrection show about Jesus?

7. What is the right response?

8. Who is this promise for?

#### READ ROMANS 10v9-13

9. How important is it to know that Jesus is Lord?

### *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 failed to see this big picture of Jesus?

How has your picture of Jesus grown today?

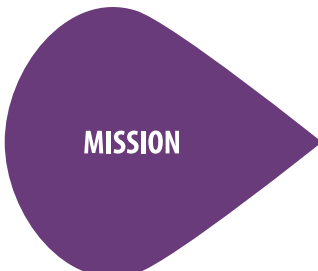
How will you respond to him?



SEEKING GOD

How does knowing Jesus is Lord spur you on to tell others about him?

Pray about someone you want to share this with, this week.

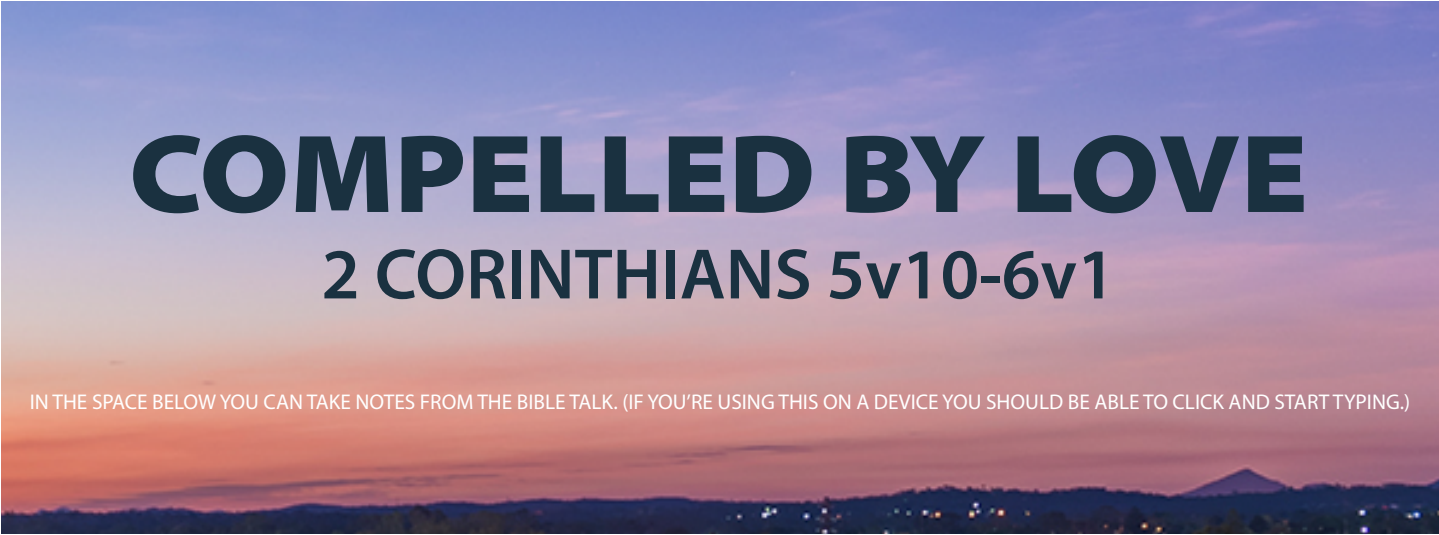


MISSION

#### PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus is his image and firstborn. Everything was created through him and for him. Praise God that he is before all things, the saviour of all. Praise Jesus, the firstborn from among the dead, supreme and reigning.
- Praise God that in his resurrection, he declared Jesus the Messiah and Lord, the one to rule on David's throne. Praise him for making Jesus the judge over all.
- Pray that we would repent and seek him, believing that he is Lord of all. Thank him for the promise of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to those who have faith in him.
- Thank God that his promises come to near and far, and that all people can seek him.
- Pray for our family and friends to do this too. Ask for opportunities to speak with them about the Lord Jesus, the king and judge. Pray that they might declare with their mouths and believe in their hearts, calling on him for salvation.





# COMPELLED BY LOVE

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5v10-6v1

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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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:

If you could, would you want to find out which day you will die? How would it change what you do now?

Today, we're seeing our final CORE CONVICTION, knowing that heaven and hell are real, that the cross shows the seriousness of our sin and Jesus' commitment to forgive us and reconcile us to God. In his resurrection, Jesus is proclaimed Lord over all.

**READ PSALM 90**

1. How does this Psalm compare God and humans?
2. What is a wise response to our short and troubling days?

**READ JOHN 3v16-18**

3. What is God's response to our predicament?
4. What motivates him?

**READ EZEKIEL 18v23; 1 TIMOTHY 2v1-6**

5. Does God want us to be subject to his anger and judgement? What does he desire?
6. Does this mean that every person will be saved? Tell us the reasons for your thinking.

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5v10-6v2**

7. What motivates Paul to share Jesus with others?

8. What is his message?

9. How does the message and Paul's motivation affect the way he goes about sharing it?

10. How does Paul describe his role?

11. What makes this so urgent?

### *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 the brevity of life affect you? Your understanding of God? Of yourself? The urgency of speaking about Jesus to others?



SEEKING GOD

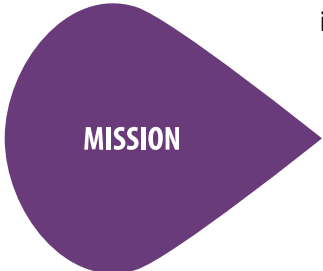
How does your heart reflect God's heart when you think about those who are facing his anger and judgement?

Where do you need to ask forgiveness? Where do you need to grow?



SEEKING GOD

What can you learn from Paul about motivations to speak the gospel? The message itself? How to speak it? What our role is?



MISSION

## PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he is from everlasting to everlasting. We are like grass that springs up in a morning and withers the same day. Pray he'd teach us to number our days. Ask God's help to see that our days are short and we face his anger, unless we turn to him to seek his compassion.
- Praise God for his unfailing love. Praise him for sending his only son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but receive eternal life.
- Thank God that he doesn't delight in the death of anyone, but desires to see them turn and be saved. Thank him that Christ Jesus is our mediator and gave himself as a ransom for us.
- Ask that our hearts would be stirred by the love of God. That his love would compel us to speak about him in our city. Pray that we would be convinced that Jesus' death on our behalf makes us a new creation. Pray that we'd know he will return one day in judgement.
- Thank God that he has made us his ambassadors and co-workers in the ministry of reconciliation.
- Thank God that, in Christ, he is not counting our sins against us, instead we become his righteousness, as he who knew no sin became sin for us.
- Pray that we'd persuade, urge and implore others to be reconciled to God.
- Pray that we would speak this message at work, home, school, to all we meet. Pray we'd do so with urgency, because now is the day of God's salvation, now is the day of his favour.



# **MAKE DISCIPLES**

## **MATTHEW 28v16-20**

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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:

<https://ministrymatters.com/2013-09-17/5-evangelism-barriers-and-how-to-deal-with-them/>

In this article, Shane Raynor, identifies some common things that hold us back from sharing Jesus with others. Rate how significant they are for you, with 5 being your biggest challenge, and 1 being your least.

- ☐ We don't know how to articulate what we believe
- ☐ We try to complicate things
- ☐ We lack passion
- ☐ Our prayer life stinks
- ☐ Our own sin holds us back

We have seen our 4 CORE CONVICTIONS:

1. Heaven and hell are real
  2. Jesus really lived, died and rose again
  3. Jesus reigns supreme
  4. So, compelled by love, we want everyone to know about Jesus
- Today we'll be thinking about where all of these convictions lead us.

#### READ MATTHEW 28v16-20

1. How does Jesus see himself? v18

2. What does Jesus' lordship mean for his disciples?

#### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15v54-58

3. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us? For our priorities?

If you want to learn more about 'the work of the Lord' as gospel work as all Christians labour to grow *new* disciples and grow others *as* disciples, check out this article:

<http://thebriefing.com.au/2014/09/the-work-of-the-lord/>

Our gospel convictions mean we are all involved in growing disciples of Jesus. We're going to think together about how we can do this as we *pray, give, love and speak*.



## READ COLOSSIANS 4v2-6

4. Who/what are the Colossians to pray for?

5. How does this connect with speaking to outsiders?

## READ PHILIPPIANS 1v3-7; 4v14-19

6. What is a key way the Philippian Christians partnered in the gospel with Paul?

## READ 1 PETER 3v8-18

7. Where can love for those who hate Jesus lead?

8. How does love-in-action fit with speaking about 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.

Across this series, how has your heart been stirred for those who are perishing without Jesus?

How are you thinking differently about your not-yet-believing, friends, family and enemies?

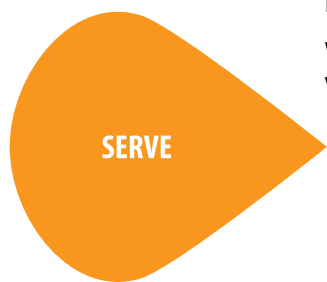


SEEKING GOD

Grab a 5 4 Jesus card, if you need one. Who are you praying for? Spend some time doing that at the end of the study.



SEEKING GOD



Are you giving generously, and partnering with **rockypc** so that more disciples might be made? How do our CONVICTIONS shape how you use what God has given you?

We would love to have another staff member who focuses on our MISSION CORE VALUE. Consider giving so that we might be able to add this staff member in the future.



How are you loving your enemies (and friends) so that they might know Jesus love?

What do you need in order to grow your confidence in speaking about Jesus to the not-yet believer that God has placed in your life? Brainstorm together about what you could do.

#### PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and earth. Praise him as Lord of all who is with us, and who sends us to make disciples of all nations.
- Praise Jesus as the risen king who was victorious over sin and death. Pray that we would capture his vision of the priority of his kingdom. Pray that we would stand firm and unmoved. Ask that we'd give ourselves fully to working for him and the spread of his gospel.
- Ask forgiveness for our lack of prayer for those who are perishing without Jesus. Pray that we'd be devoted to praying for the salvation our neighbours, colleagues, friends and family members.
- Pray that we'd give generously as we partner with those who are sharing the gospel in Rockhampton, Gracemere and around the world. Pray that we would partner together to see more people given to Jesus.
- Pray that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our region, in our generation, just for a start.
- Pray that our love for others would overflow, even for those who hate Jesus. Pray that our love would point them to the love of the one who suffered for us.
- Ask that we would make the most of every opportunity to speak about Jesus. Pray for boldness, gentleness and respectful answers to their questions. Pray that we would grow in speaking about Jesus.