

Overview of the series:

Study 1: **Creation – *The pattern of the Kingdom***

Study 2: **Chaos – *The perished Kingdom***

Study 3: **Covenant – *The promised Kingdom***

Study 4: **Conquerors & Kings – *The partial Kingdom***

Study 5: **Comfort in exile – *The prophesied Kingdom***

Study 6: **The Christ – *The present Kingdom***

Study 7: **The Church – *The proclaimed Kingdom***

Study 8: **The (new) Creation – *The perfected Kingdom***

Study 1: Creation – *The pattern of the Kingdom*



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3:

1. In the table below write down any repeated words and phrases, and discuss what you think they teach us about God.

Recurring Phrases	What these phrases teach us about God and creation
-------------------	--




2. How is mankind described in 1:26-30 and how does this make them different to everything else God had made?
3. What made the seventh day different to the previous six and what do you think this means?

Read Genesis 2:4-25:

4. Here we get a snapshot of rest. Describe what relationships look like between...
 - a) ... God and mankind?
 - b) ... Man and woman?

c) ... Mankind and creation?

5. In his excellent book 'Gospel & Kingdom', Graeme Goldsworthy defines rest as "God's people, in God's place, under God's rule". Each week we will trace the unfolding story of the Bible in these terms. Fill out the table below:

 God's people	
 God's place	
 God's rule	



Reflection:

6. How does Genesis 1-2 differ from other worldviews in our society?

7. How has Genesis 1-2 challenged your thinking and behaviour?

8. Read Matthew 11:28-30. How has Genesis 1-2 deepened your understanding of what Jesus is gloriously and graciously offering us?

9. What could you do this week to enjoy God as the creator and enjoy rest with him?



Respond in prayer & praise:

Creator God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEamgWeRKRA>

4. Using our working definition of rest from the previous study, how have things changed? Fill out the table below:

 <i>God's people</i>	
 <i>God's place</i>	
 <i>God's rule</i>	

5. It's a bleak situation, but...

a) ... what glimmers of hope can you find in Genesis 3?

b) Skim through chapters 4-11. What other glimpses of God's kindness can you see?



Reflection:

6. How does the above comfort you even though we are sons and daughters of Adam & Eve? Read Ephesians 1:3-6 and meditate on who Jesus has made you.



Respond in prayer & praise:

Jesus, thank You: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHp8eThI2qk>




Study 3: Covenant – *The promised Kingdom*



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-7, 17:1-8:

1. God makes a covenant/firm commitment with Abraham. Using our familiar table below list what God promises to do?

 <i>God's people</i>	
 <i>God's place</i>	
 <i>God's rule</i>	

2. What is Abraham's response in Genesis 15:6, and what do you think this means? (*Hint: what did Abraham have to do for God to initiate this covenant?*)

Read Galatians 3:1-9:

3. Paul is writing to the church in Galatia who are being led astray from trusting Christ. How is Abraham a model for them and us?



Reflection:

4. Look again at Genesis 12:1-7, what does God ask Abraham to do, and why would this be difficult?
5. What gospel promises of God do you doubt, and what areas of your Christian life are hard to live out?
6. We all need God to help us in our unbelief but why is it 'easier' for us than it was for Abraham?

Read Ephesians 2:11-13:

7. How is Jesus the fulfilment of the promises to Abraham so long ago?

Spend a moment meditating on God's wonderful plan to include you into his covenant people through Christ. Ask God, through the power of his Spirit, to help you trust in his good promises.



Respond in prayer & praise:

Rock of Ages: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHEUO5vFzkU>

Study 4: Conquerors & Kings – *The partial Kingdom*



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17:

1. What does David feel convicted to do for God?
2. How does God respond to this conviction, and what does he promise to David instead?
3. Armed with what we've seen in our previous studies, how is this promise to David consistent with the promises made to Adam (Genesis 3:15) and Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Use your answers to fill in the table below:

 <i>God's people</i>	
 <i>God's place</i>	
 <i>God's rule</i>	

4. How does Jesus fulfil these promises?

a. Matthew 1:1

b. Mark 1:9-11

c. John 2:18-22

d. Romans 1:1-4



Reflection:

Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and Philippians 2:5-12:

5. Like all the kings that came before, Jesus ultimately died... but who is Jesus according to these verses? Where is he now, and how should we respond to him?



Respond in prayer & praise:




Behold our God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx9-ov9m2Sg>

Study 5: Comfort in exile – The prophesied Kingdom



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

1. The prophets delivered comforting news amidst painful judgment and exile. Using the table below what does God promise to do for the Israelites?

 <i>God's people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeremiah 16:14-15:• Isaiah 53:4-7:• Isaiah 49:6:
 <i>God's place</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ezekiel 43:3-7:• Isaiah 65:17-19:
 <i>God's rule</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeremiah 31:31-34:• Isaiah 9:6-7:

Read Romans 3:10-24:

2. Why do we, like Israel, need this new covenant so desperately?
3. According to verse 19-20, what does the law do to us?



Reflection:

4. Looking through the list of where we all fall short, which ones are particularly true of you?
5. What is God's solution?

As you finish this study, read Matthew 26:26-28. Spend a moment meditating on these familiar words of Jesus and the enormity of what he has achieved for us on the cross.



Respond in prayer & praise:

Lord I need you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA>

Study 6: **The Christ – *The present Kingdom***



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read Mark 15:1-39:

1. Why do you think Jesus kept quiet at his trial?
2. Verses 6-15 tell of Jesus' unjust trial and the release of Barabbas. How does this foreshadow what is about to take place?
3. Knowing who Jesus really is, why are verses 16-32 so tragic... and yet so necessary?
4. What part of the Bible does verse 33 remind you of, and why is it so significant?



Reflection:

We've called this series HIStory. All of history leads us to this point, Jesus the King, taking our punishment on himself. Meditate on this, and as a group spend a moment in prayer. Bring before him your failures, your rebellion, and your pride.

5. In verse 38, the scene moves from Golgotha to the temple. Why is this important considering what we've seen in the Old Testament? How does this verse give us wonderful assurance?

Read Mark 16:1-8:

We know the Easter story well, but let your heart be moved again. Note how the women at the tomb responded in verse 8: "trembling", "astonishment" and "overwhelmed".

"He has risen!" Your King is alive. Your King has conquered death and has given you rest.



Respond in prayer & praise:

Jerusalem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4ZCHRksBA>

Study 7: The Church – *The proclaimed Kingdom*



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9:




1. As Peter begins this letter, how does he describe Christians, and what will their lives look like?

Read 1 Peter 1:2, 10-12:

2. Describe the Spirit's work in our lives, and how is this a comfort?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:1-5:

3. Using the table below jot down how God is working in and through us as Christians.

 <i>God's people</i>	
 <i>God's place</i>	
 <i>God's rule</i>	



Reflection:

4. What do you currently need help believing / doing from the table above?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12:

5. Adding to the table above, how else are Christians described, and why is living this out so important?
6. Who has God put in your life to observe your good works? Your purpose is to proclaim God's grace to them. How does this challenge your current priorities / purpose?

Stop and pray for your family/friends/colleagues, that through God's lifegiving Spirit they will be "born again into a living hope" and "glorify God on the day he visits."



Respond in prayer & praise:

O Church Arise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A98YQHG8tLY>

Study 8: The (new) Creation – *The perfected Kingdom*



Watch intro video on the CCC YouTube Channel

Read Revelation 21:1-7:

1. What images are used here to describe God's perfected Kingdom?

2. What will life in this perfected Kingdom be like?



Reflection:

3. What are you most looking forward to?

4. In 1 Thessalonians 4, after describing how Jesus will return and raise all Christians, Paul says: "Therefore encourage each other with these words." How can we do this better at CCC?

Read Revelation 21:22-22:5:

5. As we finish off our journey through the Bible, fill in the table below one last time. How is the end of this vision from Jesus the ultimate fulfilment of God's promises?

 <i>God's people</i>	
 <i>God's place</i>	
 <i>God's rule</i>	

In closing, read Revelation 22:16-21. Spend a moment in quiet reflection and prayer.



Respond in prayer & praise:

Is He Worthy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olahc83Kvp4>
Christ is Mine Forevermore: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roQovDZeAWE>

Notes / Prayer points:

Missions Focus:

Each quarter we want to commit to praying for a missionary family. This term our Missions Committee have asked us to pray for the Dyers who are preparing to leave RSA and serve as missionaries in South East Asia. Here is a short write up on the county they will be serving in followed by specific prayer items:

"The largest unevangelized island on earth. Most of its largest people groups are strongly Muslim. Others practice folk Islam. Many spiritual strongholds must be broken. Christianity is strong here among previously animist peoples (the Batak, Nias, Mentawai), and among the Chinese. The Batak people are successful and migrate all over South East Asia. But their ethnic pride, strong devotion to old customs, and frequent conflict with Muslims all hinder their Christian witness. The Chinese live in most cities, and operate 60% of businesses. Pray for Christians to reach beyond their own ethnic groups and witness to the non-Christian peoples around them.

Pray that the Church continues to grow amidst the intense opposition and persecution" - Operationworld.org.

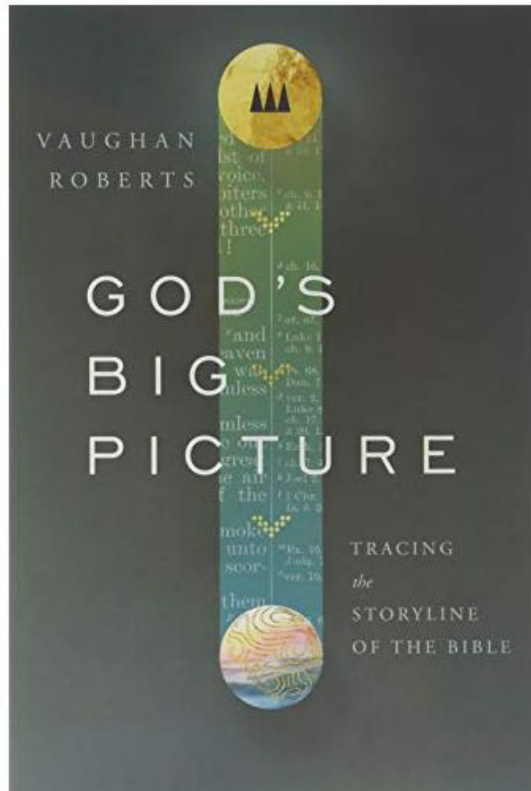
Pray for:

- Revival. Some areas have been Christian for centuries Many denominations there lack spiritual life. They struggle with immorality, divisions, and even indigenous occult practices.
- More mature, spiritual leaders. The rapid growth of newer Pentecostal and charismatic churches created a need for discipleship and training for both lay leaders and pastors.
- New believers from a Muslim background, who often face rejection and persecution from their communities. They can also find it difficult to fit into Christian culture and churches.
- Pray for whole households to come to Christ, and to follow Christ within their own culture.

Specifically for the Dyer Family:

- The Dyers are currently waiting for international borders between both countries to reopen. This closure was caused by COVID policies.
- Specifically pray for a COVID status change, so that the borders would be reopened that the Dyers can go as soon as possible.
- Pray for their online language training as they wait to embark.
- Pray for their children, Daniel, Zoë, and Sophie, who will struggle to come to terms with the transition. The children have also had to attend a new school as the Dyers have temporarily relocated in RSA whilst waiting for borders to reopen.

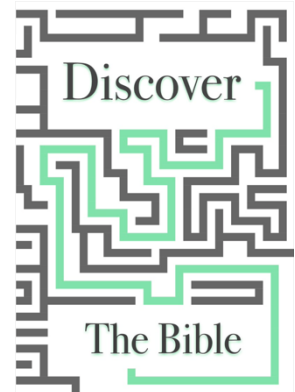
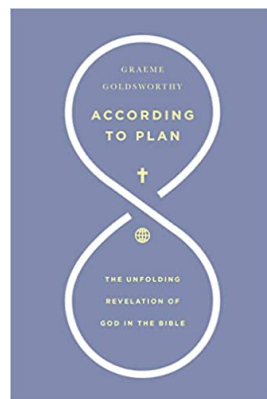
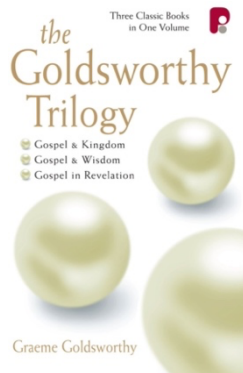




With thanks:

This series has been largely based on the book 'God's Big Picture' by Vaughan Roberts.

Other helpful resources:



'Gospel and Kingdom' by Graeme Goldsworthy

'According to Plan' by Graeme Goldsworthy

'Discover the Bible' by Michael Schäfer.