

Life Group Topics Summer 2021

The summer teaching series is designed to fit our current situation. As we emerge from lockdown, with an increased opportunity to re-connect in person, the series seeks to reassure us that as God's people we can be confident in our identity and purpose in Him. We have a future and a hope that he is calling us to step into together, even though at the moment we do not know exactly what that will look like.

All of the teaching has been chosen with a pastoral purpose. So the first series, for instance, on 'God's Promises', reminds us how much God loves us, and that He is looking after His people. This begins on 25th April, and there will be Bible Study notes in the weekly mailing from that weekend. That will be followed by a series on how we respond to God's call to be His people at this time, looking at the latter part of Paul's Letter to the Romans. Please note that April 11th is still the Easter season, and 18th April is APCM (St Andrew's) and Mission Sunday (All Saints).

The focus for Life Groups is not so much to engage in 'heavy' Bible study, as to ensure that people are being well cared for and encouraged. From the weekly notes, use only the questions that are appropriate for your group at this time.

Week Beginning	Title	Bible Reading	Summary
Promises of God			
April 25 th	The Promise of Blessing	Numbers 6:22-27	A firm promise: 'I will bless them'. (6:27) He chooses to 'put my name on them'. As things start to open up from lockdown, we have a secure hope for the future that God is for us. Look at practical ways in which living under this promise gives us confidence for day to day living. What might prevent us from receiving the blessings of God? Also – we are blessed to be a blessing. How is this working out at the moment? And how might it develop?
May 2 nd	The Promise of Rest	Matthew 11:28-30	A gracious invitation: this is to remind ourselves that Jesus is not a hard taskmaster. Acknowledge burdens, failures, losses, and the sense of fatigue that the last year has brought. Follow up on 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' and 'Rhythms of Grace' that we have had before. Are we now coming under increasing

			pressure from our 'busy' culture?
May 9 th	The Promise of Healing 1	Matthew 8:1-17	Jesus often healed people who today would have the benefit of modern medicine. In this season, with many health issues arising from the pandemic, how might we too experience his healing? Look at the principles of healing that we find here in the passage, and consider how they apply to our needs today. How might God want to bring healing to us? Physically/Emotionally/Relationally?
May 16 th	The Promise of Healing 2	Ezekiel 47:1-12	The river of living water flows out from the very presence of God (John 4:13) bringing healing to whole communities. Our church logo shows this river. How can we allow the water of life to flow through us today? Where do we currently see signs of new life, and how might God want to work amongst us as we move forward?
May 23 rd	The Promise of the Spirit 1	Acts 2:14-24	How is this promise fulfilled in the lives of Christian believers both then and now? Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in enabling people to come to faith, and in the manifestation of spiritual gifts listed here. How can we be part of seeing more of this promise realised in our own church community? What might be the benefits?
May 30 th	The Promise of the Spirit 2	John 14:15-27	Look at how Jesus describes the character and role of the promised Holy Spirit in the lives of his followers. How can we grow more deeply in the love of Jesus as we allow His Holy Spirit to minister to us?
June 6 th	The Promise of a New Age	Revelation 21:1-7	In this promise we see God's ultimate plan for the future. How might these future blessings affect the way we live now? How is the vision of this final kingdom already being ushered in through God's work amongst his people today?