

DISRUPTION

An Invitation in the Inconvenience.

Series Outline

This season has seen disruption on a scale that none of us have experienced before. Disruption to our relationships, careers and study, spiritual walks, even our perspective on life and the future. Disruption is often seen as an inconvenience, something that takes us away from what we want to do, from the people we want to be with, from our normal routines, our calling and our destiny. While disruption can be inconvenient, **disruption can also be an invitation.**

We see disruption all throughout the Bible. Lazarus, a dear friend of Jesus dies before Jesus can arrive to heal him. Yet despite this disruption, God is at work and Jesus miraculously brings his friend back to life. Paul desires to go to Rome to share the Gospel but time and time again he is disrupted. And yet God's work continues through Paul, even when circumstances and situations are against him, God's plan is outworked through Paul in the constant disruption.

God is always willing to take earthly disruption and use it as a holy invitation, a good news opportunity, to move us out of our 'normal' and into something that God can use to create something new. New ways of living, new ways of thinking, new ways of being and new ways of knowing Him. In this season of disruption will we let it be an inconvenience or will we let it be an invitation to the new thing that God wants to do in our life?

How to follow Jesus in the Disruption

The writer of Hebrews chapter 10 encourages Christians, saying... ²³*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* ²⁴*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,* ²⁵*not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

There are three key things you can do to hold unswervingly to Jesus and to encourage one another toward love and good deeds through this DISRUPTION series:

1. **Gateway Online:** Participate weekly at the 6pm Gateway Online church service.
2. **Life Group:** Meet, pray and discuss questions together as you meet online.
3. **An invitation into Something New:** Practice a personal devotional experience.

Gateway Online

We realise many people have been missing the unique 6pm vibe from Sundays in the Loft. So, from Sunday 26th April our 6pm Service will be diving back into great content designed specifically to engage our Young Adults. This will be different than morning church services and perfect for online watch parties for Young Adults. Every Sunday just head to our website at <https://gatewaybaptist.online.church/> and join in the service with your Life Group and participate in the online chat. We're pumped about starting this new season of 6pm Online! **But here's the key;** Don't just watch church online like you would with Netflix or Amazon Prime. Instead, come prepared to engage and participate in church.

Each week one of the 6pm pastors will be going **on Facebook LIVE after the service** for some extra content; head to facebook.com/YAGateway

Life Group

Even though we can't meet physically in the same room, it is more important than ever to stay connected, to encourage and build one another up, to pray together and to care of each other.

Hosting a Life Group digitally is a lot different than meeting like we normally would. So here is a link to a comprehensive resource: [How to Host a Gateway Online Life Group](#). If you are struggling to get your group set up, please do not hesitate to contact your Life Group Coordinator or Campus Pastor for help.

An invitation into Something New

During this time of disruption, your normal habits might have gone out the window. The rhythms and opportunities for your regular Bible reading, prayer time and other spiritual disciplines might no longer practically exist. And, if we're honest just doing Church online once a week and going to Life Group isn't enough to grow and sustain our faith for the long haul. **A relationship with Jesus is an invitation to intimacy not a demand for duty.** We want to invite you to join with us in seeking out opportunities to connect deeply with God.

Each week there will be an invitation to practice some ways you can go about inviting Jesus to bring transformation to your life though deeper connection and communion with him. What if, instead of succumbing to the disruptions and distractions in our life right now we intentionally sought to develop some holy habits that will sustain and strengthen our faith? What if we committed to developing a different holy habit each week of this series so that on the other end of COVID-19 we could look back and see how much our life with Christ has grown?



Week 1 – Disruption of our Spiritual Rhythms

Disruption invites us deeper with Jesus

Key Passage: Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Message Summary

For many of us in our spiritual lives, we have experienced huge disruption. There are so many different ways this season has disrupted those routines and now everything is different; from how we engaged with our daily commute, to when we get out of bed, to when we even have our meals. We might have had some nice routines like listening to the Bible in the car, praying when we were on the train, listening to worship music on the commute back home. While some of us might find we have more time on our hands, we can easily feel that we have spent less time in the presence of God and that our habits and spiritual disciplines have been interrupted.

What is the invitation that Jesus is making during this disruption? What if Jesus is trying to get us to a place of dependence, not in our routines but in our personal relationship with him? What if Jesus is inviting us into a living and dynamic spiritual walk with him that is enhanced because of the margin that’s been created rather than relying on our attendance at church programs or our commitment to old routines. What if he is calling us to something more than the few minutes we would give him at the start of the day, or just before we put our head on our pillow?

What is the holy invitation that God is calling you into in this season of disruption?

Life Group Questions

1. How are you seeing God work in this time of disruption?

Read through the key passage Matthew 11:28-30 in the Message version

2. In the Matthew reading, Jesus says *“Walk with me, work with me, watch how I do it”*. When you watch Jesus in the Bible how does he show you how to live, even in disruption?
3. What normally fills your spiritual tank? If this is something you can’t keep doing during social distancing, what are you doing to make sure that you’re operating from a place of rest and joy?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he talks about the unforced rhythms of grace?

Reflect and pray

5. What do you need to do in this season to sustain and grow your faith, and prioritise your relationship with Jesus? Pray into this for each other.

Invitation into Silence

Jesus often retreated into solitude. This week try cultivating the holy habit of intentional Silence for 10 minutes every day where you try and quiet yourself to *be still and know that He is God*. One author says that the spiritual discipline of silence is *“A regenerative practice of attending and listening to God in quiet, without interruption and noise. Silence provides freedom from speaking as well as from listening to words or music.”*

The key to the holy habit of Silence is being intentional. Try the following:

- **Find an intentional space** – it will need to be a place where you won’t be interrupted and can clear the space of all distractions. You might clear a space on the floor in a room, or you might sit at a desk or table.
- **Make an intentional time** – make this a sacred appointment. Add it to your calendar each day.
- **Posture yourself to intentionally listen** – Resist filling the silence with words or noise or even prayer, but allow your thoughts to wander to God to hear what God is impressing upon you. You may not hear anything or think that this is a waste of time; it’s not. Allow yourself to be re-centred on God in the silence.



Week 2 – Disruption of our Calling

Disruption refocuses the direction of our lives

Key Passage: Acts 9:1-18 Saul's Conversion

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Message Summary

For many of us, the future is completely unknown because the disruption of COVID-19 has derailed the plans we've had. It may feel like the calling God has on your life is disrupted. Your University degree is filled with unknowns, placements cancelled, graduations delayed. Your career might have changed through the loss of employment or your whole industry is pivoting into a new way of doing business and you aren't sure if that's what you go into it for. Maybe all this time for reflection has caused you to ask some big questions about the direction and destiny you believed that you were called to.

We see in the New Testament story of Saul that Jesus comes and utterly disrupts his direction in life. Saul goes from hunting down Christians to being one of the greatest evangelists and apostles of the Christian faith. When Jesus comes and disrupts his direction, he is inviting Saul to step into something bigger; a call that took his passion and devotion to religion and made it a passion and devotion to see everyone have a relationship with God. Jesus takes Saul and in this disruption, he gives him a new name and new purpose through an invitation to a higher calling that transcended through seasons of suffering, success, and turmoil.

There is an invitation for you to step into the bigger calling that Jesus has for you. It may not involve a change of careers but rather a change of how you engage with that career as you find the calling that Jesus has for our lives. After all, the mission of God in the hands of ordinary people will utterly transform our life and our world.

Life Group Questions

1. How have you gone practising 10 minutes of Silence this last week?
2. What study and work disruptions are you facing right now? Where can you see God inviting you to new ways of thinking and living in the middle of the disruption?

Read through the key passage Acts 9:1-18 Saul's Conversion

3. Saul was incredibly successful at what he was doing before the disruption. When you read about his conversion and complete shift in career, what does this say to you about your own vocational hopes and dreams?
4. If you were to define what your calling in life is, what would you say it would be?
5. What is God trying to tell you through this passage about your own calling?

Reflect and pray

6. What do you need to do differently this week so that you are living more in line with the call God has on your life?

Invitation into Secret Serving

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed... did you know that a mustard seed doesn't produce a mighty tree with a massive trunk? A mustard seed produces a thick leafy bush that spreads like a weed. Once it takes off you almost can't stop it; it gets everywhere! The good news of Jesus is like this; when even the smallest amount of God's goodness, kindness, peace, generosity gets in the cracks of someone's life, it can spread and grow and transform them completely.

In an Instagram world where we boast about our accomplishments and broadcast our best selves, we want to look like that mighty tree. What if this week you found small ways of spreading the good things of God to others in secret, like a sprouting mustard tree, so that joy and kindness would spread uncontrollably in people's lives? This may look like...

- Paying for someone's groceries
- Offering to purchase a coffee
- Sending a letter to a friend, an elderly relative/someone from church
- Sending an Uber Eats voucher
- Dropping off a care package to neighbours



Week 3 – Disruption of our Relationships

Disruption fosters new ways of connecting

Key Passage: Galatians 6:1-2, 9-10

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Message Summary

Our relationships have been changed and disrupted significantly in recent months. We may find ourselves interstate or internationally isolated from our families, or even find ourselves spending more time with them in close quarters than we have in decades. Not only that, but we have gone from seeing friends and spending time in their presence, to not even being able to be within 2 meters of them. How our friendships have functioned in the past no longer work in this current environment, and we've had to find new ways of connecting virtually. But in this season God may also be calling us to new relationships, new priorities of relationship, and new people to invest in.

God is deeply concerned that we are connected with others and we as people have been created to function at our best when we do life together with others. God encourages us to carry each other's burdens, to spur each other on; just as Christ has done for us. Who are the people in your life that you need to spur on, that may have some burdens you can carry, people that you know God is calling you to make a priority?

Life Group Questions

1. How did you go with practising some Secret Serving this last week?

Read through the key passage Galatians 6:1-2, and 9-10

2. The writer of Galatians asks Christians to carry each other's burdens. What burdens or disruptions can you see around you at the moment and how can you carry those for others? How is God prompting you to reach out?
3. Doing good can make us weary if we're not filling our spiritual or relational tank. What do you have to do differently to fill your relational tank now?
4. Read Matthew 11:28-30. How is Jesus' burden light? What difference does looking to Jesus make when your world is turned upside down?

Reflect and pray

5. What is weighing on your heart that you need help carrying? Ask your life group to pray for you.
6. What are you going to do this week to be an answer to prayer for the people/person who God has laid on your heart to help?

Invitation into Thankfulness

This week we're looking at Thankfulness to help us shift our perspective heavenward. Ask yourself this question at the start of each day; **"What 5 things can I be thankful for today?"**

When you notice things as you go through the day, pause what you're doing, thank God for bringing it to your mind and then write them down. It might be that someone pops into your head during the day, someone you haven't connected with in a while, or someone that you feel prompted to text, call, send a gift, etc. Don't let that moment pass, give thanks that God put them on your heart and reach out to them right then and there. This Holy Spirit prompting and your obedient faithfulness will not only hopefully encourage them, but it will also bless you too.

An un-reflected experience is a lost experience. At the end of the day, make sure that you either write down the things you're thankful for. And while the Holy Habit of Serving is done in secret, why not publicly encourage others or spread the Habit of Thanksgiving by posting it on your socials and tag us on Instagram with #gatewaybap. But most importantly thank God for all the good things of today, even when things are tough.



Week 4 – Disruption of our Security

Disruption challenges us to build resilience and to stand firm in Christ

Key Passage: Psalm 16

¹ *Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.* ² *I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”* ³ *I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”* ⁴ *Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.* ⁵ *Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.* ⁶ *The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.* ⁷ *I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.* ⁸ *I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

Message Summary

We can often try and keep ourselves distracted and busy to avoid dealing with what is really going on in our hearts and minds. In the current disruption, the pressure that we are living in can cause us to shy away from looking deeper even more and many have elevated levels of constant anxiety. Difficult family relationships are now put under the microscope and the tension can make us feel trapped, physically, emotionally and mentally as we try and keep ourselves together at home. As careers are lost, as finances become tight and as relationships become more distant, our ability to cope and our resilience is stretched.

How does God want to speak to our resilience during this season of disruption? There are many times that people in the Bible have faced difficult battles in their life and God always has something to say to them. David was *a man after God’s own heart*, who navigated seasons of having enemies who wanted to kill him, running for his life, failing morally on a massive scale and so much more. David knew that God was with him in these disruptions and because of God’s faithfulness he would not be shaken in the midst of his circumstances.

Life Group Questions

1. How did you go with your Thankfulness last week? How has it made a difference in your life?

Read through the key passage Psalm 16

2. The Psalms are like a peek into David’s journal. What do you think is going on for David in this Psalm? Is David in a good place with God and himself?
3. Re-read verse 2. What do you think this means for you? What are the good things of God that you can identify happening in your life right now?
4. Verse 8 talks about not being shaken. When things are tough how do you keep your eyes on God so you can stand firm?

Reflect and pray

5. How do you apply what you’ve been learning about God this week to your own life? What are you going to do about it?

Invitation into Journaling

We live in a fast-paced world. Journaling helps us to slow down to reflect on what is going on in our life. It helps to focus our mind, writing down what is trapped in there so the whirlwind of thoughts can be put into order and be seen from a different perspective, in our own words.

So how do you start? Journaling can be different for everyone, it can be...

- Writing down a daily prayer
- You can reflect on what you’ve seen, heard, or felt during the day
- Share a meaningful poem, song lyrics or quote
- Make a note about what is standing out to you from a piece of Scripture
- Write out your hopes, struggles and questions of God
- Draw a picture of images God is putting on your heart
- You can record your goals for the day and pray
- You can also head to RZIM for [100 Prompts to help you journal](#)

Journaling can be tough when you’re not sure what to write. Don’t see journaling as a task that needs to be done, but as an opportunity to see what God has been speaking to you about across the week. Your testimony can live in these pages to remind you to life your eyes to God in times of disruption.



Week 5 – Disruption for the Good News

Disruption presents new opportunities to tell others about Jesus

Key Passage: Acts 2 Pentecost and the birth of the Church

³⁸Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Message Summary

There is no doubt that the current disruption brings with it challenges, but for the disciples, Jesus’ death took disruption to another level. He was the promised Messiah who was supposed to save Israel, not die for it. What they would discover after the Resurrection was that this holy disruption turned out to be good news for all people through Jesus victory over death and sin. Their disappointment at the disruption lasted a short time before it turned into joy and eventually gave way to an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus to the entire world!

Next week, the 31st May is Pentecost; the celebration of the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We see in Scripture that not only is the good news preached to many for the first time, but the care and sharing between believers completely changes and transforms lives and culture and *the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved*. God cares about our eternity but also cares about us having our everyday needs met and as the Church, we have the opportunity to invite people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus and practically care for them so that we all have what we need.

In a season where we’ve seen selfishness abound, how can we as God’s people show generosity and genuine care for others as well as being ready to tell them about the life-changing message of Jesus? In the disruption that people are feeling, how can we tell them that they can find everything they need in Christ?

Life Group Questions

1. How did you go with your Journaling last week? Looking back is there anything that stands out to you or surprises you?

Read through the key passage about Pentecost in all of Acts Chapter 2

2. Put yourself in the early believers’ shoes. What would it have been like on that day to experience the Holy Spirit like that?
3. Read verses 42-47. How can we as a church practically continue to meet like what we see here so that people are loved and come to know Jesus?
4. What new thing do you think God is trying to do in the world during this disruption?
5. What opportunities exist now to share the gospel with people that didn’t exist before COVID-19?

Reflect and pray

6. What is God calling you to do as a result of this entire series?
7. Who are you going to tell about Jesus this week?

Invitation into Share the Gospel

The call to every follower of Jesus is the same and is summarised in the great commission in Matthew 28:16-20. *¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

In the coming weeks be praying about the person or people that God is putting on your heart. Pray for them, but also pray for yourself that you would have the courage to share with them how much following Jesus means to you. If you’re struggling to identify someone to share with, think about the people you care about at Uni or work that would be a person you share trust with and trusts you.

Sharing doesn’t have to be daunting as you’ll probably be sharing with someone you have a solid relationship with. Why wouldn’t you want them to know about Jesus?! It also doesn’t have to be complicated. Why not suggest reading the Bible together by asking “I’ve been wanting to read my Bible with someone, would you be interested?”