

# Who we are.

Life group  
booklet

we



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## OUR MISSION

Leading  
people to  
become  
**fully**  
**devoted**  
followers  
of Jesus.

## **OUR VALUES**

### **We hunger for the presence of God.**

We seek the life-giving presence of God in prayer and worship.

### **We teach the Bible for everyday.**

We help everyone discover timeless biblical truth in a constantly changing world.

### **We value the ones.**

We believe that everyone, everywhere is valuable to God and needs to hear the life-changing message of Jesus.

### **We live with abundant generosity.**

We give our time, talent and treasure to people in need locally and globally.

### **We raise tomorrow's leaders.**

We raise generations of Christ-centred leaders to make disciples of all nations.

# WHO WE ARE

## TOWARDS 100 AT GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Every family has values that shape the way they live and influence their relationships with one another and the world around them. In some families, values are clearly articulated and constantly reinforced. And in other families, values are unspoken but easily identified by others looking in. As a church family, we have identified some core values that have been shaped by the heart of God over many years and influence the way we relate to God, one another and the world around us. In this series we will unpack who we are as a church family by sharing our values and asking God to shape our lives in line with His heart.

### **What's the future of our Gateway family?**

**Towards 100** is the vision we believe God has given us for the next seven years as our church looks towards turning 100. We believe the future God has for us will build on what He has done in the past and surpass what we have ever asked, dreamed or imagined. As we humbly love God with all our heart and love people as Jesus loves us, He will do great things in our lives, through His Church and in the world around us.

# 21 DAY CHALLENGE

## SEASON OF PRAYER AND FASTING

During this series, God is calling us to fast and pray for 21 days to see revival break through in our lives, our local community, our nation and right across the globe. Find everything you need to be part of the 21 Day Challenge at [gatewaybaptist.com.au/21daychallenge](http://gatewaybaptist.com.au/21daychallenge).

# LIFE GROUP

## HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This Life Group Booklet has a lot of content for you and your life group to explore together. Each session begins with a summary of that weeks Value of **Who We Are** as a church.

On the adjacent page, there is a connect question, key scripture verses to read and some application questions of how we, as individuals and as a church can live out these values. We invite everyone to do the **Discovery Bible Method** as you read the key scripture, as it creates a habit for both new believers and long-time Christians alike to ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word.

We pray this resource helps you and your life group go deeper.

## DISCOVERY BIBLE METHOD

**Ask:** Pray for God to speak directly to you from the passage.

**Read:** Read the passage aloud. Then re-read the passage again in a different translation if possible.

Recite or re-write the passage from memory in your own words.

Re-read the passage silently one more time then ask:

1. What do you see?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about people?
4. What is God saying to you?

**Commit:** What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to tell?

# WE HUNGER FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD

## WE SEEK THE LIFE-GIVING PRESENCE OF GOD IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

God is looking for people who seek Him with all of their heart. In 2 Chronicles 14-20 we see a father and son struggle with the same pattern of seeking God with all of their heart and then becoming comfortable and half-hearted. Asa was a good, godly man that followed God's word and worked hard for the good of others. But he became so comfortable in his circumstances and confident in himself that he acted independently of God's power and wisdom. God chastises Him for his half-heartedness and reminds him of His promises.

Jehoshaphat, Asa's son, was also a good, godly man who followed God's word and worked hard for the good of others. When he failed to seek God and trusted in his own strength, his people were hammered by an invading army. But when he faced his next challenge, he called the nation to fast and pray, crying out to God, "We don't know what to do but our eyes are on you". As they fasted and prayed, God spoke and they sent the worship team out to battle. As they worshipped the Lord, He gave them victory over their enemy.

As we look around our church, we see lots of good, godly people who follow God's word and work hard for the good of others. Yet, like our forebears of faith, we too have a tendency to become comfortable in our surroundings and half-hearted in prayer and worship.

Jesus is calling us to a new dependence on Him in prayer; a new joy in praise and a renewed surrender in worship.

## Connect

**Share:** Have you ever experienced a hunger so deep that you might die of starvation?

## Read Scripture – 2 Chronicles 20:1-17

**Discovery Bible Method:** Use the guide on page 5 to help you read through the Scripture verses.

**Further Reading:** 2 Chronicles 16:9, John 4:23-24

## Application

**Share:** Where in Scripture can you see Jesus live out this value to hunger for the presence of God?

**Share:** Do you also hunger for the presence of God? In what ways do you already live out this value?

**Share:** In what ways can you grow in your hunger for His presence? How can your life group grow in this together?

**Share:** In what ways does our church hunger for the presence of God? Where can you see a deep desire to be in His presence across our church?

**Share:** As we journey Towards100, where can our church grow in this value, so we become more fully devoted followers of Jesus?

## Pray

**Pray for your life group:** Pray that as you grow together this year, you will spur one another on to grow in your dependence on God.

**Pray for our church:** Pray for all the ways you discussed that our church can grow in our hunger for God's presence.

# WE TEACH THE BIBLE FOR EVERYDAY

## WE HELP EVERYONE DISCOVER TIMELESS BIBLICAL TRUTH IN A CONSTANTLY CHANGING WORLD

We live in a culture that is constantly changing, but the truth of God's word never changes. We have a generation growing up in our community who has never heard the gospel and there is a growing antagonism towards the church and any message that claims absolute truth. However, there is a spiritual hunger and a search for meaning in the community. Gods of materialism, science and pleasure have been worshipped by many for many years and they have come up short.

When the Apostle Paul went to Athens, he found a people who did not know the story of God but worshipped many other gods and spent their time searching for truth. In a city full of idols, he pointed them to Jesus by starting with their own questions and quoting their own poets. He does not dilute the importance of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. He is not ashamed of the gospel and its power for salvation and nor does he shy away from the urgency for all people to repent. But he does pay attention to the culture that he is in and he changes his approach to help people connect with the life-changing message of Jesus.

We are all called to share the good news of Jesus with the people we live, work and laugh with. Whether we are standing at a pulpit or standing at our back fence, we can connect with people where they are and share the way that Jesus has transformed our lives. Your story can point people to Jesus in a city full of idols.

At Gateway we will always teach the Bible in a way that honours the unchanging word of God and connects with the longings and questions of our culture.

## Connect

**Share:** Do you have a story of when you shared some of your testimony with others? What did you share?

## Read Scripture – Acts 17:16-34

**Discovery Bible Method:** Use the guide on page 5 to help you read through the Scripture verses.

**Further Reading:** Romans 1:16, Matthew 28:16-20

## Application

**Share:** Where in Scripture can you see Jesus live out this value and teach the Bible for everyday?

**Share:** In what ways do you share the good news of Jesus today? How do you already live out this value?

**Share:** In what ways can you grow in how you share the Bible with others? How can your life group grow in this together?

**Share:** In what ways do you see our church teach the Bible for everyday? Where can you see the fruit of this value in the lives of other people?

**Share:** As we journey Towards100, where can our church grow in this value, so we become more fully devoted followers of Jesus?

## Pray

**Pray for your Life Group:** Pray that you would develop a boldness to share your faith and the gospel with friends and family.

**Pray for our church:** Pray that we would reach more people in more places than ever before with the life-changing message of Jesus.

# WE VALUE THE ONES

## **WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE IS VALUABLE TO GOD AND NEEDS TO HEAR THE LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE OF JESUS**

In Luke 15, Jesus shares arguably his most famous parable—or a series of three parables—that all make the same point. One lost person is valuable to God. One lost person is so valuable to God that He notices when they are missing. The one that is lost becomes the priority until they are found and when they are found they are welcomed with open arms and celebrated by the whole community.

We see Jesus living out this value throughout His ministry. When the crowds gather around Him, He notices the one in need who is lost and broken and hurting and reaches out to minister to them. In His parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches how we can reach out to our neighbours in need and do for one what we wish we could do for everyone.

To value the ones is to notice the broken and hurting people around us. To prioritise our time to reach out to them with love and welcome them into community. We are a church that welcomes everyone—no matter where they've come from and what they've done and what their background is—every single one is welcome. We want no one to feel like a number in a crowd, but everyone to know that they belong in our family. And when someone puts their faith in Jesus, the whole family celebrates along with the angels in heaven.

Jesus shows us the way to love and value the ones all around us. You can't change the world for everyone but you can change the world for someone.

## Connect

**Share:** Was there a time in your life when you felt noticed, really noticed for who you are? What did that feel like?

## Read Scripture – Luke 15

**Discovery Bible Method:** Use the guide on page 5 to help you read through the Scripture verses.

**Further Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

## Application

**Share:** Where else in Scripture can you see Jesus live out valuing the ones?

**Share:** How well do you notice and value the ones? In what ways do you already live out this value?

**Share:** In what ways can you grow in the way you welcome and care for others? How can your life group grow in this together?

**Share:** Where can you see Gateway valuing the ones? What ministries show the compassion of Jesus to those in need?

**Share:** As we journey Towards100, where can our church grow in this value, so that we are more fully devoted followers of Jesus?

## Pray

**Pray for your life group:** Pray that God would grow your awareness to notice and welcome the ones around you.

**Pray for our church:** Pray that Jesus would become known through the way that we love and care for “the least of these”.

# WE LIVE WITH ABUNDANT GENEROSITY

## WE GIVE OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO PEOPLE IN NEED LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

We have a God of abundant generosity. He provides, protects and prospers. He has held nothing back from us. He saw our greatest need and He was willing to give us His one and only Son to fulfil that need. Our generous God has given us everything we need. As followers of Jesus, we are simply stewards of the resources that God has given us to further His Kingdom on earth. Jesus said do not worry about what you will wear or drink or eat like unbelievers do but “seek first the Kingdom of God and all of these things will be added unto you as well”.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus explains what it means to be a good steward of God’s resources. In the parable, a Talent was money, but Jesus is not merely talking about money. He is also talking about our talents and time. We have all been entrusted with time, talent and treasure to see His Kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven, until Jesus comes again.

We live in a world full of people in need, both locally and globally. There are many lonely people needing a community to belong to. Some are physically hungry and need food to eat. Others are spiritually hungry and need to meet Jesus. When a followers of Jesus give with an abundant generosity, the physical, relational and spiritual needs of people are met in the community and around the world.

Gateway is a generous church and together we are making a Kingdom difference locally and globally, as we give of our treasure and use our time and talent to serve in our local campus and beyond.

## Connect

**Share:** When has someone blessed you with unexpected generosity? How did you respond to that experience?

## Read Scripture – Matthew 25:14-30

**Discovery Bible Method:** Use the guide on page 5 to help you read through the Scripture verses.

**Further Reading:** John 12:23-26, Philippians 2:1-18

## Application

**Share:** Where else in Scripture can you see Jesus live out this value to live with abundant generosity?

**Share:** In what ways do you show abundant generosity? How do you already live out this value?

**Share:** How can you grow in generosity, with time, talent or treasure? How can your Life Group grow in this together?

**Share:** In what ways does our church live with abundant generosity? Where can you see this value at work?

**Share:** As we journey Towards100, where can our church grow in this value, so that we are more fully devoted followers of Jesus?

## Pray

**Pray for your life group:** Pray for God to reveal if there is a way your Life Group can serve Jesus, others or our church with your time, talent or treasure.

**Pray for our church:** Pray that we would continue to develop a culture of generosity that would see God increase His Kingdom work and impact locally and globally.

# WE RAISE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

## WE RAISE GENERATIONS OF CHRIST-CENTRED LEADERS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

In any great move of God in history, there has been men and women who God used to lead the way. If we are going to see a great move of God across our nation in our time, we need people who will love the way Jesus loves, speak His truth courageously and live by faith in His power to transform.

Jesus invited 12 young leaders to follow Him. He invested in their life and leadership and sent them out with His encouragement to make disciples of all nations. In the next generation of the church, Paul invested in young leaders who courageously shared the gospel and planted churches in tough places at tough times in history. Paul invited Timothy to serve. He invested into his life and leadership, and he encouraged him to persevere in fulfilling God's eternal purposes. This pattern of invitation, investment and encouragement has continued throughout the generations. It is now our time to raise tomorrow's leaders.

When churches grow older, they fade away. But when they grow younger, they thrive! At Gateway, we are committed to raising the next generation of Christ-centred leaders. Our Generations ministries do a fantastic job of investing into our kids, youth and young adults, but you don't have to wear a green Kidzone shirt to bless the next generation. You have a lifetime of wise reflections from Scripture; revelations of God from your own experience and learnings from the mistakes in your past.

Who's life are you investing into in the next generation? How can you encourage them to be all that God has called them to be?

## Connect

**Share:** Our faith is always built on the invitation, investment and encouragement of others. Who has been the biggest champion of your faith?

## Read Scripture – 2 Timothy 1:3-12

**Discovery Bible Method:** Use the guide on page 5 to help you read through the Scripture verses.

**Further Reading:** Mark 1:16-34, Matthew 4:18-22

## Application

**Share:** In Scripture how do you see Jesus live out this value to raise tomorrow's leaders?

**Share:** Are you investing into the next generation? In what ways do you already live out this value?

**Share:** In what ways can you grow in investing into the next generation? How can your Life Group grow in this together?

**Share:** In what ways does our church raise tomorrow's leaders? Where can you see our church do this well?

**Share:** As we journey Towards100, where can our church grow in this value, so that we are more fully devoted followers of Jesus?

## Pray

**Pray for your life group:** Pray for creative opportunities to intentionally invest in another's faith. They may be younger, or they may just be younger in their faith journey.

**Pray for our church:** Pray that our church would continue to grow younger and see a whole new generation raised to courageously follow Jesus.

## OUR VISION

One church  
family in  
many places  
transforming  
communities  
with the love  
and power  
of Jesus



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 **gateway** BAPTIST CHURCH

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