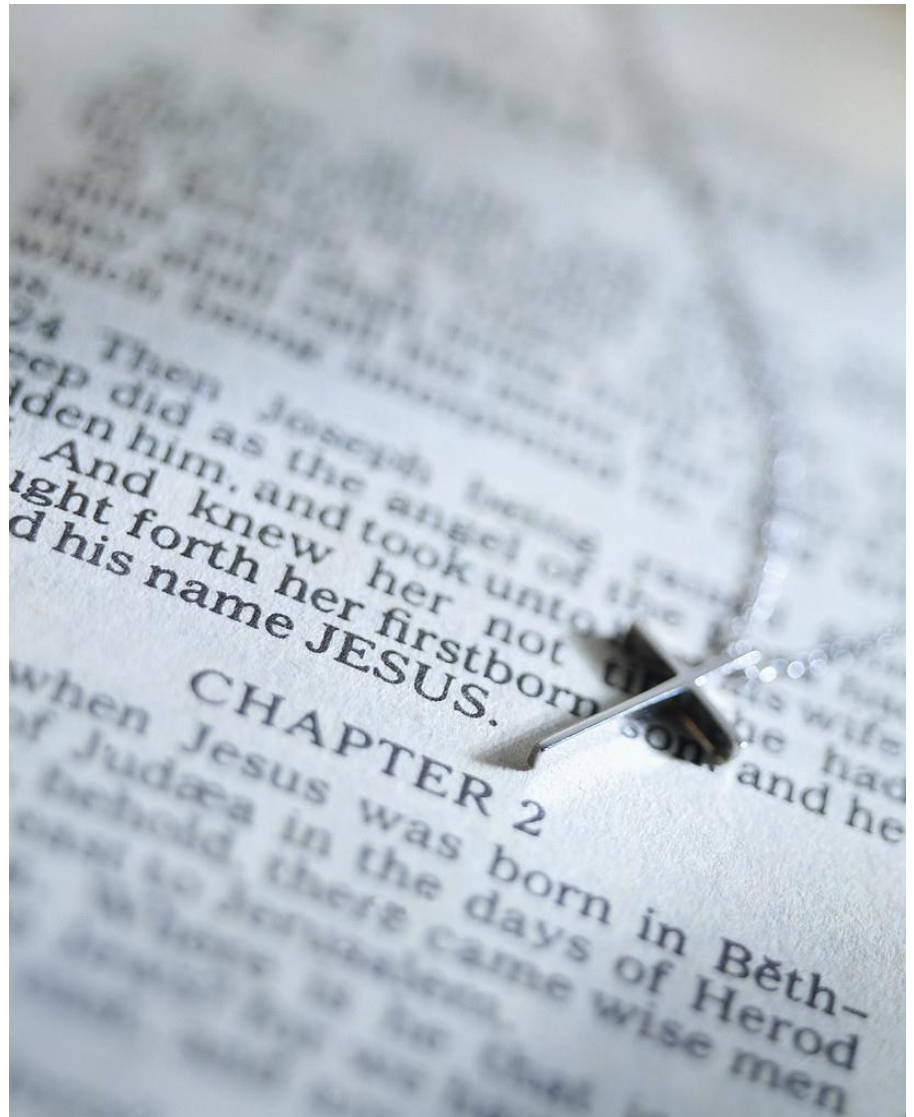


Pathways

Session 4

God's message for me



Resources for participants

Key themes of the Bible

God's people

Genesis 2:1–24
Isaiah 43:1–4, 54:10
Jeremiah 31:1–6
John 3:16
John 15:12, 13

God's relationship with people

Deuteronomy 6:4–9
Exodus 6:2 – 6:8
Psalm 36:5–7,9
Psalm 139:1–18
Romans 8:31–39

Jesus is the centre of the Bible

John 3:16
John 10: 11–16; 25–30
John 11:25–27
John 14:6
Romans 3:21–26

God's forgiveness

Luke 15:1–10
Acts 10:43
Romans 5:1–11
John 3:36
John 10:10
John 14:6
2 Corinthians 5:17–20

Living as God's people

Matthew 22:34–40
Luke 12:22–31
Acts 2:43–47
1 Corinthians 13
1 John 4:7–10

Reflection Stimulus

O Lord Jesus, your words to your Father were born out of your silence. Lead me into this silence, so that my words may be spoken in your name and thus be fruitful. It is so hard to be silent, silent with my mouth, but even more, silent with my heart. There is so much talking going on within me. It seems that I am always involved in inner debates with myself, my friends, my enemies, my supporters, my opponents, my colleagues, and my rivals. But this inner debate reveals how far my heart is from you. If I were simply to rest at your feet and realize that I belong to you and you alone, I would easily stop arguing with all the real and imagined people around me. These arguments show my insecurity, my fear, my apprehensions, and my need for being recognized and receiving attention. You, O Lord, will give me all the attention I need if I would simply stop talking and start listening to you. I know that in the silence of my heart you will speak to me and show me your love. Give me, O Lord, that silence. Let me be patient and grow slowly into this silence in which I can be with you. Amen.

[Henri Nouwen, Writings selected with an introduction by Robert A Jonas, p 11]

Prayers in the Bible

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100 (NIV)

Lord, you are the King over all.
Now let me, your servant, go in peace.
That is what you promised.
My eyes have seen your salvation.
You have prepared it in the sight of all people.
It is a light to be given to those who aren't Jews.
It will bring glory to your people Israel.
Luke 2:29-32 (NIRV)

Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood.
Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things. Do what you have learned or received or heard from me. Follow my example.
The God who gives peace will be with you.
Philippians 4:7-9 (NIRV)