

Student Focus 2018

Hearing God Speak Today



Session 1 - Revelation	09:30
Break	10:15
Session 2 - Confidence	10:35
Break	11:20
Session 3 - Guidance	11:40
Break	12:35
Session 4 - Listening	12:55
Lunch	13:30
Games	

The Annual Student Weekend Away

Book before 14 Dec for an early bird discount

STUDENT FOCUS

Student Weekend Away

**Keeping a focus on...
the Cross**

8-10 March 2019

Carrot Wood, Tonbridge, Kent | Speaker: Andrew Sach

CHRIST CHURCH KENSINGTON  **Book now! www.christchurchkensington.com/StudentWeekend**

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Session 1: Revelation

How does God reveal who He is?

	verses 1-6	verses 7-14	The contrast
Who reveals (name)?			
How does He reveal?			
To who?			
For what purpose?			
What is man's response to be to this revelation?			

General Revelation

“As a consequence [of creation] men cannot open their eyes without being compelled to see [God]... upon his individual works he has engraved unmistakable marks of His glory, so clear and so prominent that even the unlettered [illiterate] and stupid folk cannot plead the excuse of ignorance.” Calvin

Romans 1:18-21

“¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

What has God made clear? How?

What does man do in response (i.e. why isn't everyone praising our Creator God)?

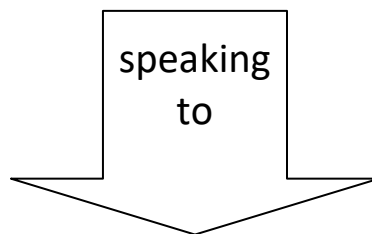
What is God's response to this?

Specific Revelation

“This, therefore, is a special gift, where God... opens his most hallowed lips... [He] shows Himself as the God upon whom we are to look.... so that from these common proofs [of Creation] He also put forth His Word, which is a more direct and more certain mark whereby He is to be recognised.” Calvin

The right approach to Scripture then

GOD AS CREATOROR



US AS CREATORURES

In 2s/3s:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

Why is the Bible pure, right, true?

How do you like your tea?

Ultimately what we have in Scripture then, is a love letter from God... to His humanity... as He reveals himself... as Yhwh... a revealing, rescuing God

How we respond to this letter from God... will say a lot about what we think of God Himself

Session 2: Confidence

In 2s/3s, take a pair of verses. In the first passage, who are we told is saying the quote? Take a look at the second passage – who actually is saying/writing those words?

Matthew 19:4-5 and Genesis 2:22-25

Hebrews 1:8 and Psalm 45:6

Hebrews 2:12 and Psalm 22:22

Hebrews 3:7 and Psalm 95:7

In 2s/3s, choose one or two to answer...

John 14:26 and John 16:12-13 – what does Jesus promise the apostles? How does that give us confidence that their words are God's words?

2 Peter 3:15-16 – what does this tell you about how Paul's letter were regarded?

1 Timothy 5:18 – what does Scripture say? But where does that come from – Luke 10:7! What does that tell you about how the gospels were regarded?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – how does this summarise what we've seen so far?

The Holy Spirit's Work and God's Word

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

⁹ *But, as it is written,*

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,*

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*

Hebrews 4:12

¹² *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

In 2s/3s:
What is going on when Christians meet together?

Ephesians 5:18-21

Colossians 3:16-17

Therefore God's word is Sufficient...

In 2s/3s: How is the bible Sufficient?

2 Peter 1:3-4

2 Timothy 3:16-17

... and Inerrant (without error or fault)

Bungee-jump doctrines!



... and clear (Clarity of Scripture)



A desert island doctrine!

"the clarity of scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it"
(Wayne Grudem)

In 2s/3s, look up these verses. What is God's word like? Who is expected to understand it?

Deuteronomy 29:29

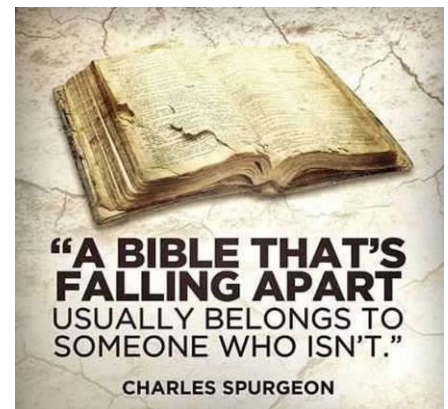
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Psalms 19:7, 119:130

1 Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:2, Phil 1:1

Therefore we can be totally confident...

... so let's prayerfully... diligently... expectantly... and humbly... study, pour over and lap up... God's word... as we rest our full weight against it.



Session 3: Guidance

Ever wish God would be clearer...?

In 2s/3s look at Romans 8:28-30

What is the Christian's destination... what is God's plan for your life?

How does that mean God is doing in your life, day-by-day?

Destination:

Route:

Not forgetting, Romans 8:35 – tribulation, distress, persecution

Do you want to live a life that is pleasing to God?

So not a nitty-gritty list of dos and don'ts... but God will work through the gospel to make us more like Jesus... as we dwell more and more on the gospel and make decisions that will most glorify, honour and please God

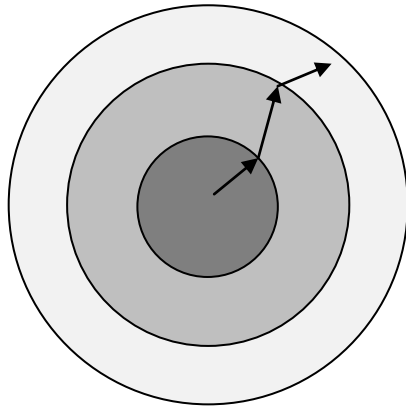
Let's be controversial : God isn't that interested in what job we do, or where we live. He's most concerned about you becoming more like Jesus

Job advice: Ephesians 4:28

Relationship advice

All of life advice: Colossians 3:17

Three areas to work through when making a decision



1) is it a right/wrong decision?

Is this a clear right/wrong decision? Am I going against something the Bible is explicit about?

If you're thinking about becoming a thief... DON'T!

If you're looking for a wife/husband... make sure they are opposite sex, not already married, a believer (*2 Cor 6:14*)

2) What are the wise/foolish considerations?

If neither option is wrong... is one more wise than the other? Does one have greater gospel benefit than the other?

3) Who cares!

LOADS fits into this category...

Putting it into practice

Should I murder my neighbour?

Should a Christian ever smoke?

Where should I live?

Is it a right/wrong or wise/foolish decision?

If a Wise/Foolish decision, what factors are there to consider? Beyond that, is it a "who cares" decision?

	Is it a Right/Wrong Decision? If not, move to the next two columns	If not a Right/Wrong decision... what are some Wise/Foolish considerations?	What would be some "Who Cares" aspects of this decision?
Should I sleep with someone I'm not married to?			
Should I watch 18 certificate films?			
Should I go out with someone who isn't a Christian?			
How should I dress?			
What job should I go for?			
Should I agree to do a gig on a Sunday evening?			
Should I be on the CU committee?			
Should I go on a pub crawl?			

Session 4: Listening

Sermons

Humbly

Expectantly

Actively

Regularly

Geographically (**G**athered together)

Obediently

Daily

In 2s/3s:

In what ways can we **help one another** listen to sermons more thoughtfully?

How might that change the way we see time together after church on a Sunday or throughout the week?

“Quiet Times”

In 2s/3s... have a look at Psalm 1 together:

What are the contrasts in verses 1 and 2? [*note ‘blessed’ literally translates here as ‘truly happy’*]

What images are used in the rest of the Psalm? How do they highlight the importance of meditating on God’s word ‘day and night’?

One your own... think about these questions

What do I find hard when it comes to reading my bible for myself? Why is that? What practical things, or encouraging reminders, will make it easier for me?

If you don't already have a plan... what could be a plan for the next few days to get yourself into reading the bible day-to-day?

SONGS

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder

consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe
displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods
and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook
and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul...

3. And when I think
that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die – I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:
Then sings my soul...

4. When Christ shall come
with shouts of acclamation
and take me home –
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim,
'my God, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul...

* Stuart Hine © 1949

Speak O Lord, as we come to you,
to receive the food of your holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak O Lord and fulfil in us
all your purposes for your glory.

2. Teach us Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes;
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak O Lord, 'til your church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

* Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word
What more can He say
Than, to you, He has said?
You, who, unto Jesus, for refuge, have fled

3. 'Fear not, I am with you,
'Oh be not dismayed
'For I am your God, and will still give you aid
'I'll strengthen you, help you
'And cause you to stand
'Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand

3. 'When, through the deep waters,
'I call you to go,
'The rivers of woe shall not, you, overflow
'For I will be with you, your troubles, to bless,
'And sanctify, to you, your deepest distress

4. 'E'en down to old age,
'All My people shall prove
'My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love
'And when their grey hairs
'Shall, their churches, adorn,
'Like lambs, they shall still,
'Near My heart, e'er be borne

5. 'The soul that, on Jesus,
'Has leaned for repose,
'I will not, I will not desert to its foes
'That soul, though all hell
'Should endeavour to shake,
'I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake'

*Richard Simpkin © 2003 MMRRecords

Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!

True wisdom its pages unfold;
and though we may read them
a thousand times o'er,
they never, no never, grow old!
Each line has a treasure,
each promise a pearl,
that all if they will may secure;
and we know that when time
and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

2. Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!

The lamp that our Father above
so kindly has lighted to teach us the way
that leads to the arms of his love!
Its warnings, its counsels,
are faithful and just;
its judgements are perfect and pure;
and we know that when time
and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

3. Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!

Our only salvation is there;
it carries conviction down deep in the heart,
and shows us ourselves as we are.
It tells of a Saviour, and points to the cross,
where pardon we now may secure;
for we know that when time
and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

4. Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!

The hope of our friends in the past;
its truth, where so firmly
they anchored their trust,
through ages eternal shall last.
Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!
Unchanging, abiding and sure;
for we know that when time
and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

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