

Why Bible studies for a 40th anniversary?

Forty years ago on 29 May 1978, Covenant Christian School opened its doors. An anniversary is a good time to look back – to remember all that’s happened, to celebrate and to thank God for what he’s achieved in and through our school. It’s also a time to look forward and ask God to help us persevere. But it’s important to ask ourselves, what are we trying to persevere in? Yes, we want to keep running a Christian school. However, Covenant Christian School is more than just a Christian school. It has a specific vision and mission:

Vision Statement

“To faithfully serve in God’s plan to restore all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.” (See Ephesians 1:9-10).

Mission Statement

“To assist parents in the nurture of their children, by providing a Christ - centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education to equip the children to live for God’s glory.”

Our school exists to play its part in God’s worldwide plan to bring everything and everyone under the lordship of Jesus. Our method for doing this is to help parents equip their children to live for God’s glory by providing a Jesus focused, biblically grounded education that engages with culture and meets a high academic standard. In other words, the founders of our school centered its direction and purpose on **Jesus** and on **His Word, the Bible**.

Our school logo reflects these two central arms of our vision and mission. The cross tells us that Jesus is the centerpiece of all history. The Bible reminds us that unlike other books, the Scriptures are the inspired, sufficient and final word of God. They teach us everything we need to know about how to be saved and how to live the Christian life:

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

It seemed fitting then, that celebrating our 40th AGM and anniversary should include listening to the voice of God. It is an opportune time for families to read the essential word of God so that together, we can re-focus on the centre-piece of our school – the essential Jesus.

We invite every Association member, family and staff member to use these four short studies during our anniversary week starting Tuesday 29 May. The studies are based on Luke’s gospel and have been designed for parents to do with children but can also be used by individuals or even small groups of adults. It would be wonderful to see teachers and mums gathering together at Café Covie to do the studies.

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Many thanks to Matthias Media who have generously provided, at reduced cost, copies of *The Essential Jesus* – Luke’s gospel for you to use with the studies. The new edition cover reflects the fact that Jesus, the suffering King is essential to our school.

Our prayer is that through His Word, God will enable us to persevere in our school’s vision and mission - without compromise, with refreshed commitment and increasing joy.

Covenant Christian School Board

Ben Molyneux, Carmelina Read, Dean Stewart, Graham Baikie,
Philip Selden and Tasha Smithies

May 2018

Some hints before you start

10 – 15 minutes is all it takes

- These studies are designed to be done as a family in 10-15 minutes. However, individuals can use them for personal Bible study.
- They have been designed to help us think about the vision and mission of Covenant Christian School in the week of our 40th anniversary. However, don't feel that is all you can discuss.
- Try to work out in advance when you will do each of the four studies on the set days. If you anticipate what your diaries hold for each of these days and slot the Bible study time in, you are less likely to have this precious bible time crowded out by other activities.
- *The Essential Jesus* doesn't have verse numbers. However, we have provided you with page numbers and where to start and end the readings.

'A bit of fun' sections

- Silly antics aren't just for little children. Adults and teens can have fun too, especially if there are younger siblings present. It's a loving thing for older children to learn to serve younger children by getting involved in the fun activities.
- However, the bit of fun is optional. You can also vary it or do the kinds of activities that suit your children's age or the personality types of your family.

Preschoolers to grade 6

- Try rephrasing questions with simpler words. You can even introduce easier questions.
- Skip the “think about it” questions and just read the answers.
- Older siblings or another parent can help younger kids by whispering the answer to them.
- If your children can read, consider ordering additional copies of *The Essential Jesus* so that everyone has the text in front of them. Alternatively, pass the booklet to the person answering the question.
- For preschoolers and infants children, help them pray by asking them to repeat the prayer after you. Use short phrases.
- Invite older siblings to help younger siblings.
- Give positive feedback and repeat right answers so that children are encouraged to keep participating.

Teens to young adults

- Consider ordering additional copies of *The Essential Jesus* so that everyone has the text in front of them. Alternatively, pass the booklet to the person answering the question.
- Encourage older teens and young adults to take a turn leading the studies.
- Allow them to explore additional discussion.
- Encourage everyone to consider what God is specifically teaching them from this passage.
- Allow time for individual contribution to prayer.

Wanting More

- Some of the ideas in these studies are from an excellent family devotional by Marty Machowski entitled *Old Story New, Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God*.
- Why not consider taking a weekend or setting aside a day to sit down and read the whole of Luke's account of the gospel in *The Essential Jesus* in one sitting. This is the advantage of having no verse numbers. It allows you to read Luke's biography as one story from beginning to end without distraction.
- The whole Bible contains the complete story of the good news about Jesus. Luke's gospel is based on the interviews and research conducted by Luke – a doctor and historian of Jesus' time. He explains his purpose in the opening few lines of his biography of Jesus on page 7 of *The Essential Jesus* (Luke 1:1-4).
- You can read a detailed summary of the gospel – the good news – about Jesus, on pages 76 ff. of *The Essential Jesus*.
- If you have questions or would like to find out more about Jesus, please read page 75 of *The Essential Jesus*.

Jesus, the King

Tuesday 29 May, 2018

Talk about it

Who is the most powerful leader in the world? Why?

Parents: Print photos of current leaders to show.

For a bit of fun: Provide paper crowns for everyone to wear during the study.

Covenant Christian School started on 29 May, 1978. Forty years ago today. The people who started our school knew that there is one leader who is more powerful than anyone. You can't see this leader at the moment, but he's real. They wanted our school to be part of God's plan to bring everyone under this person's leadership. Listen to what the school's vision statement says:

Our school's vision is:

"To faithfully serve in God's plan to restore (bring back) all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ." (This is based on Ephesians 1:9-10).

But who will Jesus rule over?

Luke, the writer of the third gospel in the New Testament wrote about Jesus' leadership in the first chapter of his book.

Read it

Luke 1:26-45

Page 9 of *The Essential Jesus*

1. How did Mary respond to the angel's message about Jesus? *(She accepted God's plan).*
2. Whose son is Jesus? *(The Son of God – the Most High).*
3. What is God going to give Jesus? *(The throne of his father (King) David, the house of Jacob (Israel) – ie, Jesus will be given rule over God's people).*
4. What kind of kingdom will King Jesus have? *(A kingdom that will never end).*

Think about it

1. How is Jesus different to every other world leader? *(He rules over God's people and his kingdom will never end, He is the Son of God).*
2. Are you like Mary? Do you accept God's Word to you? Do you welcome our role in God's plan? Do you believe Jesus is the ruler of God's people even though you can't see Jesus now?
3. Our school's vision is to bring every person under Jesus' lordship. What do you think this means for what we do at our school?

Pray about it

1. Thank God that Jesus came to earth to become God's ruler over His people.
2. Ask God to help every child, parent and everyone who works at our school to trust in King Jesus.
3. Praise God for the part Covenant Christian School has played in helping Mums and Dads to raise their children to follow King Jesus.

A bit of fun

Play "Jesus is the Mighty, Mighty King" by Colin Buchanan. You can play these at no cost on our Spotify Playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/user/carmelinar/playlist/0vUn2mzyQ6mtHFSAqOZGtU?si=ETRT8bkzRhypKBvORYiluQ>

Spotify can be accessed for free – copy and paste the link into your browser to play the song.

Give everyone a texta to write the on their crown "Jesus is my King" and then take a selfie with everyone wearing the crowns.

Jesus, the Saviour

Wednesday 30 May, 2018

Talk about it

A bit of fun: Parent dress up like a life saver and wear a safety floating bubble during the study.

Alternative if you are the serious type: Open and place 1-2 packets of Life Savers (lollies) on the table and say nothing about them until prompted at the end of the study.

Have you ever been saved from danger? What happened? Who saved you?

Read it

Luke 2:1-14

Page 11 of *The Essential Jesus* starting at chapter 2 and ending at “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those with whom he is pleased.” on page 12.

1. What does the word Saviour mean? (*Someone who rescues people*).
2. What kinds of people save others? (*Life savers, the Fire Service, Police etc*).
3. How is Jesus a Saviour? (*He rescues people from God’s anger for their sin. In Luke 3:17 on page 16 of The Essential Jesus, John the Baptist says that Jesus will gather up the wheat (those who repent of their sin) but he will punish the chaff (sinners who do not repent). Also the last line of our reading, 2:14 says that peace comes to people that God is*

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pleased with. God is not happy with our sin. When Jesus rescues us from God's anger, God is pleased with us.

4. Who is the good news about Jesus for? *(All people).*

Think about it

1. Who needs Jesus to rescue them from God's anger for sin?
2. How can our school help tell the world that Jesus is the Saviour?

Pray about it

1. Thank God that Jesus is the Saviour who rescues us from God's anger for our sin.
2. Pray that our school will always teach children about Jesus – the Saviour of the world.
3. Praise God for teachers and staff who live with Jesus as their Saviour.
4. Pray that the government will never try to stop our school giving jobs only to teachers who trust in Jesus to rescue them from their sin.

A bit of fun

Share the packets of Life Savers.

Dress up in super hero costumes and play and sing Colin Buchanan's "Super Saviour". It's in our Spotify Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/user/carmelinar/playlist/0vUn2mzyQ6mtHFSaQOZGtU?si=ETRT8bkzRhypKBvORYiluQ>

Jesus, the Peacemaker

Thursday 31 May, 2018

Talk about it

Has someone ever stopped being your friend? What happened?
How did you make peace and become friends again?

Sin stops us being friends with God. Over and over again, in the Old Testament of the Bible, God promises that one day He will make people friends with Him again. A promise is also called a 'covenant'. The prophet Isaiah wrote about God's covenant in his book in chapter 53, verses 5-6:

"He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace ... All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

A bit of fun: Sing Colin Buchanan's "Isaiah 53:6" which is also on the Spotify Playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/user/carmelinar/playlist/0vUn2mzyQ6mtHFSAqOZGtU?si=ETRT8bkzRhypKBvORYiluQ>

Get the children to sing the words and the parent to sing the "Baas" and "Uhs!"

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Adults for a bit of additional fun listen to this version called “The Archbishop’s Rap”:

<https://open.spotify.com/user/carmelinar/playlist/0vUn2mzyQ6mtHFSAqOZGtU?si=ETRT8bkzRhypKBvORYiluQ>

“Transgressions” and “iniquities” mean sin. “Chastisement” means punishment. Isaiah is telling us that everyone has sinned. But one day, someone would come to take God’s punishment for our sin so that we could have peace with God and be His friends again.

Read about it

Luke 23:44-49

Page 71 of *The Essential Jesus* starting at “By this time, it was already about midday ...” and ending at “But all Jesus’ acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance, watching these things.”

Think about it

1. What happened to the temple curtain when Jesus died on a cross? (*It was torn down the middle.*)
2. Why was there a curtain in the temple? (*To keep people away from the holy presence of God which was behind the curtain in the Holy of Holies.*)
3. Why did God tear the curtain in two when Jesus died? (*To show that now we can be with God – be friends with God through Jesus because Jesus’ death takes away our sin.*)

Think about it

1. How did God keep His covenant – His promise to make peace with us and make us His friends again?
2. If someone asks you why our school is called **Covenant** Christian School, what will you say?

Pray about it

1. In your heart, without speaking out loud, pray to God and tell him about your sin today. Ask Him to forgive you because of Jesus' death.
2. God's covenant came true in Jesus – this means you can be sure that God will forgive you. Thank God that He kept His promise and that Jesus is our peacemaker.
3. Pray that the Covenant Christian School Board and Association will work hard to keep God's Word central to what is taught at the school.

A bit of fun

Colin Buchanan wrote a song for our school's 40th anniversary. Take turns reading out loud a couple of lines of the song. Underline words and phrases that remind you of the vision and mission of our school. Share what you have underlined and how it relates to the school.

God Has Showered His Kindness On Us (Ephesians 1:7-10)

Words & Music by Colin Buchanan © 2017 Colin Buchanan

1. God has showered his kindness on us
He's the King of grace
He gives wisdom to his children
Knowledge of his ways
He makes known the mystery
His covenant rule of history
God has showered his kindness on us
He's the King of grace

2. Lavish love from God our Saviour
Opens up our eyes
Making known his sovereign purpose
He set forth in Christ
He'll unite all things together
Under Christ, in earth and heaven
Lavish love from God our Saviour
Opens up our eyes

3. Light and love and life and learning
All was made for him
Every gift and every treasure
All that's ever been
Everything in all creation
"Mine!" is Jesus proclamation
Light and life and love and learning
All was made for him

Everything in all creation
All was made for him

Jesus, the Living One

Friday 1 June, 2018

Talk about it

Have you ever heard a story you found hard to believe? Tell us about it. Did you believe the story? Why or why not?

A bit of fun for little ones: (From *Old Story New, Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God* – Marty Machowski, p.318 eBook).

Show the children a banana (and have an orange nearby but out of sight). Ask the children if they think you can turn the banana into an orange. They will likely say no. Say that most people don't believe something happened unless they see it. So to prove you can do it, you'll show them. Say a whole heap of magical sounding words and then say you will now turn the banana into an orange and then dramatically and suddenly turn the banana into the direction of the orange and make it crash saying "the banana turns into the orange." And make them collide! Stand up and take a bow.

Do you remember our first study? The one we did on Tuesday? What did we learn about Jesus? (*That He's God's eternal King*).

But yesterday, we learnt that Jesus died on a cross. How can Jesus rule over God's people if He's dead? Lots of people think Jesus is still dead. They won't believe it unless they see it for themselves. Let's see what the Bible, God's word says.

Read about it

Read Luke 24:36-53

Page 74 of *The Essential Jesus* starting at “While they were talking about these things, Jesus stood right in the middle of them and said” to the end of the chapter.

1. What did the disciples think they were seeing when they saw Jesus? (*A ghost*).
2. What did Jesus say to them and what did he show them? Why do you think he did this? (*He said a ghost doesn't have a body like he does and he showed them the nail marks in his hands and his feet to prove he was Jesus who died on the cross but was now alive*).
3. “Christ” is the Hebrew word for God’s King. What did Jesus tell the disciples that God’s King had to do. (*Suffer and rise from the dead for the forgiveness of sins*).
4. What does Jesus say the disciples are? (*Witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead*).

Think about it

1. The disciples saw Jesus risen from the dead. Luke interviewed them and other witnesses and wrote down what they saw in his book in the Bible. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive in heaven with God?
2. Jesus is the only person who has ever risen from the dead to live forever. He promises that everyone who trusts that He died and rose again for their sin, will live forever with Him. Why is this the most important news our school can teach?

Pray about it

1. Thank God that Jesus rose from the dead and is now ruling as God's King.
2. Ask God to help you keep believing that Jesus rose again even when other people say it can't be true.
3. Pray that Covenant Christian School will keep teaching the resurrection of Jesus.
4. Ask God to help all students and teachers remember that living for Jesus is more important than any good thing this life can give us.

A bit of fun

Read the following verse together and talk about what it means:

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Work out a way of memorizing the verse together.

Some ideas:

- An army style chant – one person calls out a phrase and the rest of the group repeats it:

"Therefore"	"Therefore"
"My dear brothers & sisters"	"My dear brothers & sisters"
"Stand firm"	"Stand firm" etc.

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- Write the verse out on a white board and say it a few times together out loud. Then everyone has a turn rubbing out one word at a time and the groups then says it without the missing word(s) until nothing is left on the board.

