

Worship in every direction

Vision Series Guide
October – November 2017

VINE CHURCH

Worship in every direction

A Christian is someone whose life is bigger than themselves. They look up and out, not just down and in. They dig deep and draw together when life is tough. And because they've been given so much by Jesus, they give back and seek to enrich the lives of others. This is a life fully engaged in worshipping Jesus. This guide is designed to help us reflect together on what it means to worship in every direction.

Fully engaged in looking up

Romans 12:1-2

Sunday, 15 October

Fully engaged in drawing together

Hebrews 12:18-13:8

Sunday, 22 October

Fully engaged in digging deep

Colossians 2:1-10

Sunday, 29 October

Fully engaged in paying it forward

1 Chronicles 29:1-22

Sunday, 5 November

Fully engaged in reaching out

+ Commitment Sunday

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Sunday, 12 November

Fully engaged in giving back

+ Ministry Fair

1 Peter 4:7-11

Sunday, 19 November

How to use this book

1. Personal reading

This guide will help you study the Bible on your own with suggested Bible readings, questions and prayer points for five days each week.

We encourage you to pick a regular time each day and stick to that. 15 – 20 minutes works well.

You may be a morning person and so reading first thing will be best for you. Or, you might be a night owl, in which case reading after dinner might work better. Whatever is going to work best for you, stick with that.

Use the questions in this book as a guide to reflect on God's word. Write down your answers, thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by his Spirit, through his word.

2. Community groups

Take this guide with you to your Community Group so you can share things you've been learning and questions that have come up. You might also like to write down prayer points so you can pray for members of your group when you get home.

3. Church

Bring this guide along with your Bible to church on Sundays to take notes.



Fully engaged in looking up

MAGNIFICATION

*Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
I will praise you, Lord my God,
with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.
(Psalm 86:11–13)*

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to live in awe, dependence, and holiness as we magnify the greatness of Jesus Christ.

OUR PRAYER

We are praying for a passionate community of disciples who magnify the greatness of God in awe, dependence and holiness.

Fully engaged in looking up

Notes from the sermon

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Fully engaged in looking up

Day 1 – Read 1 Kings 18:20-39

1. The prophets of Baal had a loud, passionate worship gathering morning to evening but “no one answered; no one paid attention.” (v.29) But when Elijah was done, the people were in awe of God. Do you leave church resembling the prophets of Baal or Elijah?
2. Are you in awe of God when you’re singing praises to him in Church? Or are you more focused on the people leading or the loudness of the sound like the prophets of Baal?
3. What of God’s works causes you to fall face down before him?

Prayer: Ask God to help you to have a posture of worship that is looking up to the greatness of God. Pray for authenticity when singing praises to God rather than empty words.

Day 2 – Read Psalm 150

1. The word for praise in Hebrew is an imperative, a command. When do you find it hardest to praise God? Why?
2. According to the psalm why and how do we praise God?
3. This seems to be a whole life experience. Do you confine praising God to times of singing in church or do you praise Him with all of your life?

Prayer: Pray that you would praise God through all seasons of life. Pray that you would praise God abundantly in your life.

Fully engaged in looking up

Day 3 – John 4:1-26

1. Jesus is talking about “true worshippers” here. Do you believe that there are false worshippers in the world? If so, how do you distinguish between the two?

2. “To worship God in spirit and truth is first and foremost a way of saying that we must worship God by means of Christ.” Is worshipping God in spirit and truth an absolute necessity in your life?

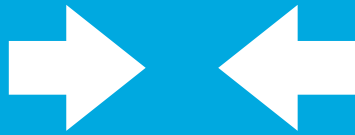
3. Why do you come to church on Sunday? Is it to focus on what you’ll get out of it or to give praise, honour and thanksgiving to the God who gave his only Son to save you?

Prayer: Praise God for sending Jesus to save us and show us what true worshippers look like. Ask God to help you to continually be in awe and wonder of his goodness.

Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in looking up and enjoying God as the greatest thing in your life. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Pray on your way to church and arrive early
2. Reflect on the meaning of the words you're singing
3. Have a conversation after church about something you've learned or been challenged by
4. Write down your reflections from church each Sunday night. What is God calling you to do during the week?
5. Put to death a sin you're struggling with, with the help of *You Can Change* by Tim Chester
6. Pray with a friend each week
7. Read a Psalm
8. Write down what you're thankful to God for every day
9. Remind someone of God's goodness
10. Encourage the music and sound team
11. Get an accountability partner to help you grow in personal holiness
12. Pick up a prayer calendar and use it every day



Fully engaged in drawing together

MEMBERSHIP

In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. . . [Therefore] love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
(Romans 12:5, 9-13)

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to join God's family, gather with His people and care deeply for each other.

OUR PRAYER

We are praying that God would make us a united and growing community who are functioning as members of one body and warmly connecting and caring for each other as God's family.

Fully engaged in drawing together

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Fully engaged in drawing together

Day 5 – Read 1 Peter 2:1-12

1. How are God's people described in this passage?
2. In vv. 4-5, Peter calls us to be like living stones. What does this look like from a practical perspective as a member of Vine Church?
3. Reflect on how your own daily conduct impacts the people around you in light of vv. 11-12.

Prayer: Give thanks for the spiritual house God is building and his mercy to include each of us in his eternal plans and purposes.

Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in drawing people together as God's family. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Intentionally sit next to a new person at church
2. Invite someone to a social event
3. Join the hosting or foodies team
4. Text or call someone during the week
5. Regularly pray for people who are struggling
6. Introduce a new person to someone they could connect with
7. Go out for a meal before/after church
8. Come to church early to help make others feel welcome
9. Join the Vine Care team
10. Participate in a meal roster
11. Mentor a member of Vine Youth or someone less mature in their faith
12. Help out at a Newish dinner



**Fully engaged in
digging deep**

MATURITY

But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head – Christ.
(Ephesians 4:15)

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to grow to become fully mature disciples of Jesus by bringing every part of our life under His word.

OUR PRAYER

We are praying for a dynamic community of mature disciples who want to grow in Jesus by bringing every part of their life under his word.

Fully engaged in digging deep

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Day 2 – Read Jeremiah 15:5-8, Romans 12:1-2

1. A dry and dusty desert and a vibrant fruitful tree are the images used to show spiritual failure and vitality. What would it look like for you to be the vibrant, fruitful tree?
2. The image of the tree putting down deep roots and bearing fruit is used a number of times in the Bible (Psalm 1, Jer 17:7-8, Matt 13:31-32, Col 2:6-7). What am I doing to deepen my spiritual roots into the person of Jesus?
3. In Romans 12:2 Paul says “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Being transformed is passive, like God is the one doing the work. How do I see my role and God’s role in growing my spiritual maturity?

Prayer: Ask God to renew your mind and to help you to put roots deep down into Christ by the study of his word. Ask God that he will be maturing our church to be full of vibrant and fruitful, deep-rooted trees.

Fully engaged in digging deep

Day 3 – Read Philippians 3:7-14

1. To grow our spiritual maturity, it is essential that we know Christ Jesus – not merely to know about him from a distance, but to intimately know Jesus as a dear friend.
How much do I truly seek to know Jesus?
2. What will I discard which prevents me from knowing him more deeply?
3. In practical terms, what can I do to “press on” toward the goal of knowing Jesus?

Prayer: Ask God to grow your knowledge of Jesus. Pray that your knowledge wouldn't be head knowledge but that it would be the knowledge of a true and intimate friendship.

Day 4 – Read Psalm 119:1-16

1. Psalm 119 uses various terms to describe Scripture – law, statutes, precepts, decrees. But most often the term “your word” highlights the personal quality of the Bible. How do I hide God’s word in my heart? Am I daily taking opportunities to read short passages of his word on my own or with others?

2. Do I hide significant verses in my heart by committing them to memory and reflecting upon them regularly?

3. Do I meditate on Scripture by taking time to turn it over in my head and consider how it may shape my life – influence my patterns of speaking and living?

Prayer: Thank God for his word that grows us and nourishes us. Ask God to help you to hide away verses or sections in your heart that they might grow you to be more like Jesus.

Fully engaged in digging deep

Day 5 – Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:16-18

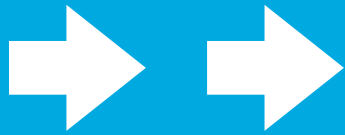
1. Maturity is a process not an achievement. The process is my transformation to be more Christ-like. How do I make sure that I “contemplate the Lord’s glory” in a manner that enables the Spirit to transform me?
2. When do I lose heart in the ongoing struggle to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? What’s my response when I sense this discouragement?
3. What does it mean in practical terms for me to “fix my eyes” on the unseen eternity? Do I daily focus upon Christ’s return and my life in His Kingdom?

Prayer: Ask God to work in you by his Spirit to grow you in your maturity. Thank God for the certainty of your future inheritance of being with Jesus and ask him to help you to keep that in the forefront of your mind.

Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in knowing God deeper and loving Him more. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Grab a Bible reading guide and read
2. Read the Bible passage before going to Community Group
3. Read *God's Big Picture* by Vaughan Roberts
4. Catch up with someone to read the Bible and pray
5. Read through the Bible in a year
6. Get an accountability partner to keep you accountable in your spiritual disciplines
7. Share something you have learned recently with a friend
8. Pray in the morning for the day ahead
9. Sign up to do a theology night course
10. Read *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott
11. Seek to memorise one new verse from the Bible each week
12. Ask a trusted Christian friend to share an area they think you could grow in and ask them for help doing so



**Fully engaged in
paying it forward**

MONEY

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made... Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
(1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to give with a generous and joyful heart to promote the name of Jesus, care for the poor and express our confidence that God has our backs.

OUR PRAYER

We are praying for a community who express their trust in God and commitment to His mission by giving joyfully and generously.

Fully engaged in paying it forward

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Fully engaged in paying it forward

Day 1 – Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

1. Why does David want the temple to be great? How does this shape his generosity?
2. What is the attitude of David and the people in giving to this work? Why is this his attitude? Do you find it difficult to have the same mind in giving? Why?
3. The people of each household gave willingly. What was the result of this willing generosity? What holds you back from having this same mind? Have you ever experienced generosity like this?

Prayer: Thank God for his glory and honour and might. Ask God to help you to be a willing and joyfully generous believer. Ask God to make us into a community that rejoices in the generosity of our members.

Day 2 – Read Psalm 116

1. What gives the Psalmist joy in this psalm? Have you been captivated by this reality too?

2. Because of what God has done in saving, the psalmist wonders about the right response (v. 12). Considering God’s wonderful saving work, how does that shape your generosity?

3. What would it mean for me to offer a “sacrifice of thanksgiving”? Do you spend more time thinking about the maximum you can give to the Lord or the minimum?

Prayer: Thank God for the abundance of his love that he has shown you and ask for that abundance to shape how you think about generosity. Pray that we will be a church that responds to God in generosity because of what he has done for us.

Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in paying it forward with generous and joyful financial gifts in promoting the name of Jesus and caring for the poor. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Make your pledge on Commitment Day (Sunday, 12 November)
2. Think of ten big purchases that you've made in the past year and label them 'Belonging to God. For His Use Only'
3. Look at your bank/credit card statements and reflect on whether your spending reflects your priorities
4. Look at a few ads and identify what type of 'salvation' or 'better life' they promise. Think through how empty these promises are and trust God's promise (Phil 4:19)
5. Read *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn
6. Use the guide *Gospel Stewardship* to help work out what you might give (vinechurch.com.au/give)
7. Work out what percentage of your income will go towards church giving, church planting, missionaries, justice and mercy issues. Setup recurring EFT giving to these causes
8. Share with a respected Christian friend what you earn and give to make this a less secret issue in your life
9. Give away some cash anonymously to someone this week
10. Encourage your Community Group to share their giving practices. Start by sharing what you give
11. Take God's dare to trust him (Malachi 3:10). Give away at least ten percent of your pre-tax income and see if God proves faithful
12. Consider ways to live more simply so that you could increase your generosity. When you make your next luxury purchase, consider giving the same (or double) that amount to the work of the gospel



Fully engaged in reaching out

MISSION

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
(Matthew 28:18–20)

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to do something about the millions of people in our city who don't know Jesus by urgently speaking the gospel to our friends and family.

OUR PRAYER

We are praying for an army of Christians urgently sharing the good news of Jesus in our world and a flood of people going from death to life as they become disciples of Jesus.

Fully engaged in reaching out

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Day 4 – Read Matthew 28:16-20

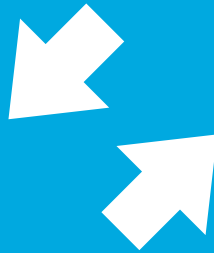
1. How do the disciples respond to the women's news and to Jesus himself? How would you characterize your own response to Spiritual truth? Are you quick to obey and worship the Lord, or do you struggle to believe?
2. How does Jesus' authority validate his command? What confidence does that give us?
3. Look carefully at all the instructions Jesus gives in these verses. In what ways does Jesus' commission go beyond the initial task of evangelism? What would it look like for us to be a church of disciple-making disciples?

Prayer: Pray that we will be a church that is seeking to make and grow disciples of Jesus.

Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in reaching out to your friends and family with the good news of Jesus. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Start praying for people with a 3-1-1 card
2. Invite someone to church
3. Invite someone to Christianity Explored
4. Ask someone if they would read a Gospel with you
5. Offer to pray for a friend going through a hard time
6. Invite your Christian and non-Christian friends to dinner together
7. Go on a short-term mission
8. Learn *Two Ways to Live* and share it with someone
9. Read Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*
10. Give a book by Tim Keller to a friend
11. Pray for a missionary each week
12. Invite friends over to watch and discuss a debate between a Christian and an atheist. Watch anything by Christians John Lennox or William Lane Craig versus Richard Dawkins or Christopher Hitchens.



Fully engaged in giving back

MINISTRY

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
(Colossians 3:17)

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to serve others with a glad and joyful heart because our God gladly served us.

OUR PURPOSE

We are praying for a community of disciples who joyfully serve God and others by giving their time, talents and treasures.

Fully engaged in giving back

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Your next steps

Choose a step to take to help you become fully engaged in giving back by serving with a joyful heart. Consider taking another step each month.

1. Start serving on a team at church
2. Pray for your ministry and leader
3. Pray for other ministries
4. Encourage others in different ministries
5. Actively seek to improve your skill in your ministry area
6. Take on administrative roles within the team
7. Aim to increase your financial generosity
8. Ask for more responsibility within your ministry
9. When you gather, remind your team members of your team's purpose and vision
10. Share with someone outside your ministry of how God's been at work in your ministry
11. Recruit or train someone else to join your ministry
12. Try a ministry that scares you or is out of your comfort zone

Upcoming dates

**Sunday, 12
November**

Commitment Sunday

Your opportunity to make your financial pledge toward the ongoing work of Vine Church in connecting people to the life, love and freedom found in Jesus

**Sunday, 19
November**

Ministry Fair

Join us for a celebration of the variety of ways we are serving God in our church

**November –
December**

Christmas Offering

Your opportunity to give a one-off gift to special projects happening in 2018

**Saturday, 2
December**

Christmas Party

Join the church family as we come together to celebrate the year we've had

**Sunday 24 –
Monday 25
December**

Christmas Eve (4pm & 11pm) and Christmas Day (10am)

Bring a friend or family member to our Christmas Services as we celebrate the coming of God's Son to save our world

**Friday 16 –
Sunday 18
March 2018**

Weekend Away

Join us as we get away together for great teaching, worship and time together in community