

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

In the past, and in many churches today, believers will say words like, “I believe . . .” These statements of belief have been put into “creeds”, statements that the church has used to summarise our faith, what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Each month of this year we will be looking at one aspect of what we believe. What we believe is based upon, and found in one place: the Bible. It is from the Bible that we have developed these “creeds”, these summaries of what it means to believe.

To us, the Bible is the Word of God: we believe in the authority of scripture. For more on this, turn to page 2.

WELCOME

Have you noticed the difference a smile can make? When you meet someone and they smile and tell you they are pleased to see you, it says something very powerful.

In Numbers 6:25 God is instructing the priests in how to speak a blessing over the people. The verse reads, “may the LORD make his face shine on you”, or as it says in The Message version, “God smile on you”. A smile “shines”.

A smile says, “I’m pleased to see you”. It says, “you are welcome here”.

God welcomes us into His presence, welcomes us to come and discover how “deep and wide is the love of God” (Ephesians 3:18-19).

We too can communicate welcome. We too can communicate God’s love for the person in front of us as we choose to be kind, to bless, to show grace, to forgive, to be loving, just like our Heavenly Father.

If you continue
in my word, you
really are my
disciples

John 8:31



2024

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Kingsway Chapel

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Registered CIO No. 1193371

Learning to pray the Bible



THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

The Bible is a great inspiration for prayer. We have Jesus teaching about prayer, examples of other people's prayers, and many verses that we can turn into prayers.

The greatest example is the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. You can read it for yourself in Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4.

You may have read or recited this prayer in the past. One of the ways of making it more personal is to re-write it in your own words.

Would you take this prayer, re-write it, and then share it with your small group this month? You can compare your version with others and explore each others perspective.

All scripture is inspired by God . . .

(see 2 Timothy 3:16)

GOD'S WORD . . .

Behind every word that anybody utters stands the person who speaks it. It is the speaker himself (his character, knowledge, and position) who determines how people regard his words. So God's Word carries God's authority. It is because of who he is that we should believe what he has said.

Our claim, then, is that God has revealed himself by speaking; that this divine ("God-breathed") speech has been written down and preserved in Scripture; and that Scripture is, in fact, God's Word written, which therefore is true and reliable and has divine authority over us.

John Stott

The Portable Seminary (Bethany House: 2006), p23-24

THE BIBLE AS GOD'S WORD

"The way we see the Bible will shape the way we read it and approach the whole theological enterprise."⁽¹⁾ This quote reminds us that what we believe about the Bible, our attitude towards the Bible, will determine and shape how we read, understand and interpret everything in it.

When we quote from the Bible, teach from the Bible, and read the Bible for ourselves, do we see it as a book to be evaluated, or as a message from God Himself? Is it a text to be studied, or a message to be received and obeyed?

This is the practical outworking of what we call the Doctrine of Scripture. If we believe that this book is inspired by God, is God-breathed (see 2 Timothy 3:16), then all other things must take second place to what God says.

We view the Bible as God's Word. We consider it to be *revelation*, in that God has chosen to make himself known through scripture; *inspired*, in that God has spoken in scripture through people; and has *authority*, because scripture is from God Himself. ⁽²⁾

For more on this, listen to our talk on Sunday 4 February, as we explore this important and foundational doctrine.

⁽¹⁾ R Putman, The Method of Christian Theology (H&H Academic: 2021) p121.

⁽²⁾ J Stott, The Portable Seminary (Bethany House: 2006), p22-23



BIBLE READING PLAN

February

1	Mark 4
2	Mark 5
3	Mark 6
4	Mark 7
5	Mark 8
6	Mark 9
7	Mark 10
8	Mark 11
9	Mark 12
10	Mark 13
11	Mark 14
12	Mark 15
13	Mark 16
14	Luke 1
15	Luke 2
16	Luke 3
17	Luke 4
18	Luke 5
19	Luke 6
20	Luke 7
21	Luke 8
22	Luke 9
23	Luke 10
24	Luke 11
25	Luke 12
26	Luke 13
27	Luke 14
28	Luke 15
29	(catch up day)

If you continue in my
word, you really are my
disciples

John 8:31

WILL YOU READ WITH US?

Will you join us in a daily reading of the Bible? The table to the right gives you one chapter from the new testament for each day of the month. If you have been reading with us in January, then we have already read the whole of Matthew's Gospel, and have now started on Mark. I wonder if you have noticed the change in the style of writing?

Please do get in touch if you have any questions about what you are reading. The list of readings for this month are on the right of this page.

If you would like to read the whole Bible over the year, then a copy of this plan can be found on the our website at:

<https://www.kingswaychapel.org.uk/post/read-the-whole-story>

Paper copies of a selection of Bible Reading Plans can be found in the Chapel foyer. If you would like some advice on which one to use, please do ask.



PASTORAL CARE

Be a blessing. Seriously, ask God how He would like you to bless someone else today? Is there a need you can help with? Is there a Bible verse you can share with someone? How about taking a moment and praying with someone today? Maybe you can go and visit someone, or make a phone call?

Every church community is made up of people going through all sorts of life experiences. Some are lonely, feel isolated and cut off, maybe because of health or age challenges. Some are struggling with the pressures of life: home life, work life, all of life. Some people have questions, worries, or doubts.

If this is you, you need to know that every month we pray for every person who is part of Kingsway Chapel, individually. We ask God to bless you, keep you, and provide for you. And if there is something you would like us to pray for, please let us know (drop a message to Geoff).

May you be blessed today.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor: Geoff Thompson

E: pastor@kingswaychapel.org.uk, T: 01244 326763, M: 07743 145917

Leadership Team: Tristan Cooke, Jenny Mvula, Velko Nachov

Family and Childrens Leader: Gary Carter

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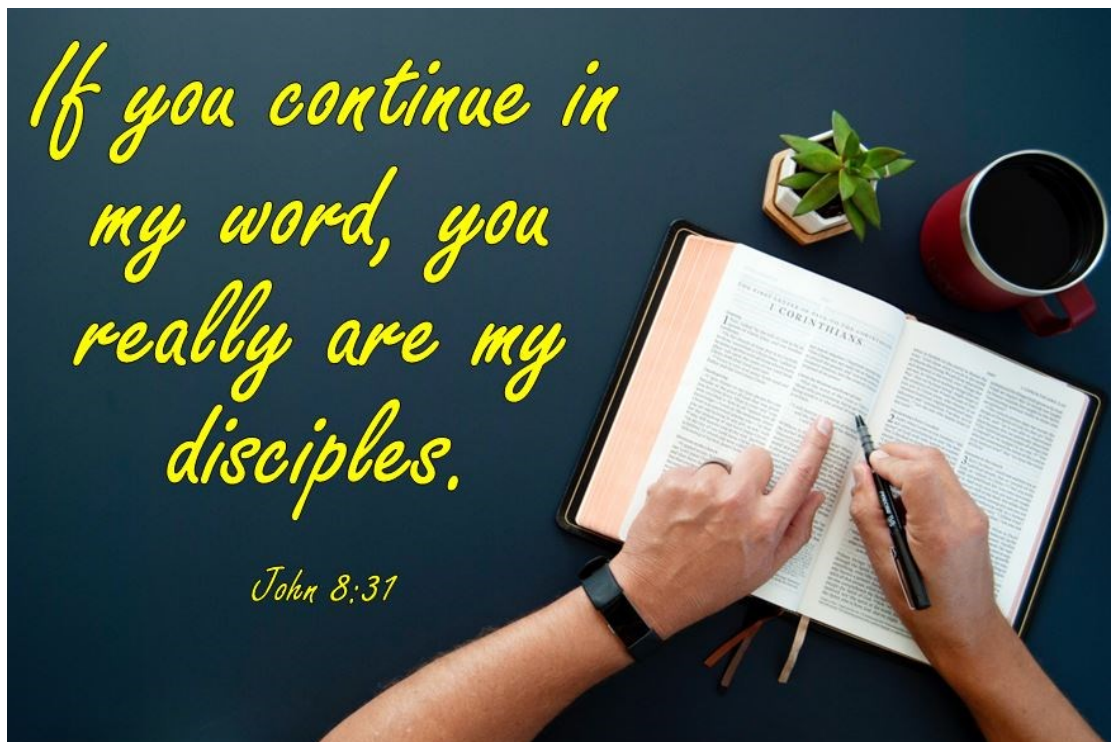
Kingsway Chapel

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February 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 10am—1pm Coffee Morning Small Group (with Pearl)	2 9.30—11.30 Stay & Play 4.30-6pm Kids Club	3	4 10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Prayer & Worship
5 11am Pastoral Prayer 7.30pm Small Group (with Tristan and Pat) 8pm Music Team	6 Small Group (at Arista Coffee) 8pm Small Group (with Geoff)	7 2pm Small Group (Ladies—with Jenny) Small Group (with Chris) Small Group (with Velko & Nadya)	8 10am—1pm Coffee Morning Small Group (with Pearl) 7pm Knit and Natter 7.30pm Leadership Team	9 9.30—11.30 Stay & Play 4.30-6pm Kids Club	10	11 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
12 11am Pastoral Prayer 7.30pm Small Group (with Tristan and Pat) 8pm Music Team	13 Small Group (at Arista Coffee) 8pm Small Group (with Geoff)	14 2pm Small Group (Ladies—with Jenny) Small Group (with Chris) Small Group (with Velko & Nadya)	15 10am—1pm Coffee Morning Small Group (with Pearl)	16 9.30—11.30 Stay & Play	17	18 10.30am Morning Worship
19 11am Pastoral Prayer 7.30pm Small Group (with Tristan and Pat) 8pm Music Team	20 Small Group (at Arista Coffee) 8pm Small Group (with Geoff)	21 2pm Small Group (Ladies—with Jenny) Small Group (with Chris) Small Group (with Velko & Nadya)	22 10am—1pm Coffee Morning Small Group (with Pearl) 7pm Knit and Natter	23 9.30—11.30 Stay & Play	24	25 10.30am Morning Worship
26 11am Pastoral Prayer 7.30pm Small Group (with Tristan and Pat) 8pm Music Team	27 Small Group (at Arista Coffee) 8pm Small Group (with Geoff)	28 2pm Small Group (Ladies—with Jenny) Small Group (with Chris) Small Group (with Velko & Nadya)	29 10am—1pm Coffee Morning Small Group (with Pearl)			

Sunday Services in February

All Sunday morning services start at 10.30am.

We also have a creche for under 5's plus a Sunday School group.

Sunday 4 February: We believe the Bible is God's Word

6.30pm Prayer & Worship

Sunday 11 February: Know the source of wisdom (1 Corinthians 2)

Sunday 18 February: The path to maturity (1 Corinthians 3)

Sunday 25 February: Imitate our example of service (1 Corinthians 4)

You can also join us via Zoom using the following details:

Meeting ID: 844 5305 5301

Passcode: 102525

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84453055301?pwd=ZEFJbWl4dEJOT1J6Zk1GU0hIWig5UT09>

