



Whitstable Community Church

DNA

Vision and values
Discipleship Booklet



Introduction

In Autumn 2020 we preached 12 sermons covering our DNA vision and values. All these are available to access through the WCC website or YouTube channel.

We believe these DNA vision and values were a revelation from the word of God about how God sees us now and in the future. In a sense they are God's expression of our identity and potential; a picture of what it looks like to grow more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

So, what happens next?

We believe God wants to grow and change us.

Philippians 2:12-13 says:

'...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'

This verse tells us two things.

1. That God is the one who works in us to change us and that He delights to do it!
2. That we have a responsibility to do something – to 'work out' our salvation; to participate with the Holy Spirit as He works in us.

This booklet is aimed to help you identify areas in your life where the Holy Spirit wants to work with you to bring about change.

How to use this booklet

- Complete the brief questionnaire to help you identify areas for growth in relation to the DNA values. You may find it helpful to read the summary on each of these to see what is meant by each value.
- To start with choose three DNA values that you believe or desire the Holy Spirit to grow you in. Find that DNA section in this booklet and complete the more detailed DNA Reflections.
- Feel free to add your own reflections, beyond the questions provided, on what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in this area. Avoid 'should's' and legalistic burdens – approach each area with freshness and hope, remembering that God delights to work in you.
- Share these reflections with your discipleship group or relationship and seek their support and accountability to help you grow in these areas.
- Access podcast resources linked to the DNA areas you want to grow in (See appendix) and discuss these in your discipleship times



DNA Questionnaire

Complete the brief questionnaire to help you identify areas for growth in relation to the DNA values. You may find it helpful to read the summary on each of these to see what is meant by each value.

| DNA Series Topics | Not like me now | | | Like me now | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DNA 1 - Following Jesus | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 2 - Growing Together | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 3 - Sharing our hope | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 4 - Love God | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 5 - Love others | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 6 - Share our hope | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 7 - Listen and do | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 8 - Be Generous | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 9 - Be real | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 10 - Give second chances | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 11 - Get involved | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |
| DNA 12 - Pray first | [] | [] | [] | [] | [] |



DNA 1: Following Jesus

A people dedicated and committed to following Jesus.

Scripture

Matthew 4:18-20

Like the first disciples we read about in Matthew 4, Jesus invites us to follow Him. This is an invitation into intimacy, obedience, sacrifice and service.

We follow out of Relationship

The first thing Jesus calls us to is relationship with Him. It is not about doing but about being. Jesus invites us to come and learn from Him by sharing life with Him, up close and personal. Nothing in the world compares with knowing Jesus (Phil. 38)

We follow as an act of Obedience

Jesus says that his sheep hear and know his voice (John 10:3-4). He is the Good Shepherd calling out to His sheep. How well do you know the voice of Jesus? We must learn to recognise and respond to His voice, through the scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

We follow out of Sacrifice

When Jesus was presenting an image to represent His new revolutionary movement, He chose the cross (Matt. 16:24). He didn't hide sacrifice in the small print. The cross is the symbol that best describes what it means to follow him. We are called to deny ourselves, to not go our own way but to go his way. Are we willing to lay down our life and follow Jesus? What we gain is so much greater than what we lose.

We follow out of a sense of Service

Jesus said that 'if anyone serves me, He must follow me' (John 12:26) We are called to follow Jesus into service - into his purpose. We join the family business! We become his workmanship. He has good works for us to do (Eph. 2:10). We are called to share His invitation with the world in need. We need to take this responsibility seriously as one day the doors will be shut (Matt 25:10)



DNA 1: Following Jesus

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Do I count knowing Jesus as more treasured than anything else in my life?

What things in my life stop me from living this out?

What new ways can I be changed through being more obedient?

How can I hear the Shepherds voice more often in my life?

How can I pick up my cross and deny myself?

Why is it important for me to do this?

Which of these areas (Relationship, Obedience, Sacrifice, Service) do I need to grow in?

Which of these areas are you doing well in? (celebrate this)



DNA 2: Growing Together

A people dedicated and committed to functioning as a single body and loving community

Scripture

Ephesians 4:11-16

Every born-again believer starts life as a baby - a babe in Christ - and is called to grow in His likeness. God calls the church to build one another up into unity and maturity.

We grow together into the head that is Christ

We grow into Christ through close intimate relationship with him, like branches to a vine. Branches need to be connected to the vine to flourish. If detached they will die. When we love someone, we feel connected to them in every way, wanting to know them deeply, valuing every detail.

The body grows gradually

Growth is fast when we are infants but can be quite gradual in adulthood. We want to be a people that show signs of development. What are these signs?

- We hold onto the truth – we are not swayed by worldly culture.
- We see evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- We celebrate diversity and togetherness in who we are in Jesus Christ.

We grow together into the body that is the church

Ephesians 4:15-16 shows us that when each part of the body is working properly the body grows in love. The church is not like a bus with a driver and passengers. It is more akin to a long rowing boat with everybody playing their part. We all fit together and belong to one another. It is important that each individual grow into maturity and confidence so we can help one other achieve our potential.



DNA 2: Growing Together

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

How have I grown during the past season of your life?

What new areas of your life do you want to grow in?

Who can help you grow in this?

What is the cost of committing to this community of believers?

What fruits of the spirit does the Holy Spirit want to deepen in you?

What gifts of the spirit does the Holy Spirit want to develop in you?

Who are you regularly connecting to?

Who else could you regularly connect to?



DNA 3: Sharing our Hope Vision

A people who can share the gospel with freedom and liberty.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

We are either on Jesus's mission or on no mission at all. If we miss this, we call into the question the validity of our church existence. We are called to share our hope with those around us.

What is our motivation?

Reconciliation

We know firsthand the power and benefit of being reconciled to God through Jesus' death on the cross. If we grasp the wonder of the gospel, we will not be able to help but share the good news with others.

Responsibility

As recipients of God's grace, we have also been given a responsibility to share our hope. We have been appointed as ambassadors of Christ, entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.

What is our confidence?

Proclamation

When it comes to sharing our hope our confidence not in the **how** but **who** the gospel is about. The power is in the message not the method. This is a key concept – we are not proclaiming ourselves – we are proclaiming Jesus. Hesitation comes sometimes through an overburdened sense of responsibility – we take it all on our shoulders – we forget that God empowers.

Power

If you feel inadequate, weak and fragile when it comes to sharing your hope– that's ok, because you are!. We have this treasure of the gospel in jars of clay – in earthenware pots. It is easy to focus on our weak packaging and forget the treasure that dwells within us. The surpassing power belongs to God.



DNA 3: Sharing our Hope

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

What is my motivation for sharing the gospel with others?

Do you accept that you are called to be God's ambassador of reconciliation on earth – because you know what it is like to be reconciled to God yourself? Do you accept you are uniquely qualified in this?

Are you open to new ways of sharing the gospel?

Do you find comfort in the fact that it's God who saves – you are the messenger?

Are you willing to surrender any sense of inadequacy in this area and be emboldened by the Holy Spirit?

Can you identify the one person in your life you can consistently pray for and share the gospel with?

What are the real things that hold you back in this area?



DNA 4: Love God

As a response to God's overwhelming love for us, we seek to love God with all we are, all we do, all we have

Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is our primary calling. But how do we outwork this call in our lives?

Understanding God's love

The truth that God loves us can fail to land on our hearts with its full impact. God's love is not like any other love that there is. Do you know how much God loves you?

First and foremost, God's love is costly – it came at a high price. We were condemned to death because of our sin and Jesus has stepped and taken this terrible judgement on himself. Everything we do as Christians should come out of a love response to this amazing sacrificial love demonstrated by Jesus's death on the cross.

Responding to God's love

Time

The more time we spend with God the more we will fall in love with Him. Is your love for God obvious in your life?

Worship

We do not worship because of what we feel. Our feeling for God grows out of our worship to God. Put him first in your mind and praise Him.

Service

Jesus loved his disciples to the end by serving them (John 13). We serve him as our response to his love, acting as his hands and feet to the world.

Thankfulness

We have been given so much! Our love grows as we give him thanks for everything He is and does.



DNA 4: Love God

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

How can you love God more?

Do you accept that God loves you deeply?

Are you open to finding new freedom in expressing how deeply you love God?

Are you willing to explore new and deeper ways of spending time with God?

What could increase your motivation, desire and act of worshipping God?

What new ways could you find of putting God first in your life?

Are there any blockages in my love for God and your enjoyment of His love for you?



DNA 5: Love Others

Loving our neighbour means loving the person right in front of us, whoever they are, whatever their story, whatever their need.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Loving our neighbour is not just about loving the person who lives next door. It is about loving the person right in front of you, inside the church and out in the world.

Way of love

1 Cor 13 sets a high standard for love. Loving others requires relational commitment and relational sacrifice. It requires something from us. It doesn't just happen by accident. We are called to live in tents and not castles; our lives facing inwards, living for one another, separated by thin canvas rather than thick walls.

Witness of love

The impact of this type of love described in 1 Cor. 13 to the world is immense. In John 13.34, Jesus says, 'A new commandment I give you to love one another... by this all people will know that you are my disciples.' How does our love for one another look different to the way the world loves?

Wonder of love

When we replace love in 1 Cor 13 with our name, we fall short – but there is one name that doesn't: Jesus! We can grow in loving others by following His example, by loving the way Jesus showed us how to love.

We will love others fully only when we know we ourselves are fully loved. The key to grasping this is understanding we are fully known. To be known is to be loved. In all our uniqueness, frailties, and emotions, on our darkest days, we are fully known and fully loved by Him.



DNA 5: Love Others

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Who are you really close within the church? Who would you like in your support network?

Are you available to love and serve the people God has put in your life?

What fears/constraints do we have that stop you deepening relationships with others?

Go through 1 Corinthians 13 and replace the word love with your own name. What aspects of love stands out to you when you do this?

Are you open to inviting people into your life? What holds you back?

How can you be like Jesus when he washed the feet of the disciples? What do you think that means for you?

Do you accept and understand how much you are loved and how much the God of the universe accepts and knows you? How does this help you?



DNA 6: Share our Hope (Value)

We believe that the gospel, the news of Jesus' death and resurrection to forgive all our sins and bring us into right relationship with God, is the best news there is. So, we want to share it with everyone.

Scripture

1 Peter 2:15-16

Evangelistic passion and effectiveness flow from how brightly Jesus is a current reality in our life. Evangelism is less about what we do and more to do with who we are.

Sharing our Hope is a Heart posture

It starts with a heart for Christ, not a desire to win an argument or grow our numbers. Compassion and empathy can get easily get lost in zeal. We share our hope with gentleness and respect.

There is power in a story. People are persuaded more by a story than by a fact. You have a compelling story to tell. Evangelism is inviting people into our experience our story. Invitation is a key word; saying to people, 'come and see how Jesus has changed my life.'

Sharing our Hope is a lifestyle

Always be ready. We are sometimes sowing and sometimes reaping. A Farmer sows seeds everywhere. We are responsible for the sowing, not for the growth.

Sharing answers to prayer. Talking to others about answers to prayer can be a big witness.

Living with peace. A countenance of peace and security in times of travail can be a witness.

Loving genuinely. Seeing neighbours as people and not projects

Patience. Seeing the fruit of sowing can take a long time so we need to be patient and not become disheartened.

Not for experts. There is a grace for you to do it your way. Remember God does all the hard work.



Do you remember those moments when the reality of who Jesus is burned brightest in your life?

Do you agree sharing our hope is less about what I do and more about who I am in Christ?

What fears do you have about being this real in your evangelism?

Identify the power in your own story? Outline the impact of your own salvation.

Are you open to inviting people into an experience of your own story?

Are you ready to start sharing? What factors might hold you back? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify at least one person you can share your story with.

Do you accept that you have a role to play in sharing your hope by being relaxed and free to share your story? If not how can you be helped to find this freedom?

DNA 6: Share our Hope

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.



DNA 7: Listen & Do

God has revealed who He is and how we are to live through His word. That means the Bible has the final say on everything because He's God and, well, we're not.

Scripture

James 1:19-25

If God speaks into our lives, then things will change – so long as we hear and obey. We can all hear what God has spoken – it is in writing in black and white. We can't go wrong if we pay close attention to His word.

God saves us by His word

When God speaks things happen. Just as when he first spoke life into being it is God who brings about new life and new birth. When we see new life happening in areas of our lives, it will be because God's word has taken root and is bearing fruit.

God sanctifies us by His word

We want to follow Jesus, to imitate Him, and grow together as a community, displaying the fruit of Spirit. These things will happen as we receive with meekness the implanted word.

God shows us by His word what we are like

The word reveals God's perspective about me, other people, our church, our nation, our world. The word gives us God's perspective on the whole of the history of the universe. And yet He also discerns the thoughts and intentions of each of our hearts. The word is penetrating. We don't just read the word, it reads us. The word God shows us things about ourselves.

What it means to 'Do'

If the word does not impact our priorities and purposes, then James says we are deceiving ourselves. In essence we are saying that our view of things is more important than God's. But if it does change our priorities and purpose then James says the one who looks and perseveres - the doer who acts - will be blessed in his doing. Doing out of a response to love is not a hardship but a blessing. God want to bless us as He reveals His perspective to us, and we align our lives with that.



DNA 7: Listen & Do

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Are you regularly reading the word?

What factors deter (if any) from reading the word regularly?

What could help you get more out of your reading of the word?

Are you prepared to let the word read you?

What examples can you give of where reading the word has brought you to a place of conviction and change in your attitude or actions?

What motivates us being obedient to the word of God?

What areas of your life demonstrate your obedience to the word of God?



DNA 8: Be Generous

As we have received from God we seek to give generously of our money, our time and our talents.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Generosity is an essential aspect of being a disciple. The scriptures tell us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be. We need the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us grow us in this challenging area.

Generosity is Joyful

The church in Macedonia were experiencing great affliction and poverty and yet when given the opportunity to be generous, their reaction is an abundance of joy! You would not think that misery, hardship, and poverty were ever a recipe for anything but more suffering. But joy is the magic ingredient that turns all these ingredients into generosity. Likewise, we are called to joyful, cheerful giving.

Generosity is faith filled

The church in Macedonia is described as 'giving beyond their means'. How did they do this? They were empowered to do so because they 'gave themselves first to the Lord' and trusted in Him for their provision. Where do we believe that our needs will be met? Are we reliant upon God or ourselves?

Generosity is grace-fueled

Radical generosity is a grace gift. Paul encourages the church in Corinth to excel in the grace of giving. When we meditate on grace it shows up in our life. By Christ's poverty we have become rich; freely we have received, freely give. We are called to freely choose sacrificial generosity so we can boast of our peace and security in our relationship with God. This is rocket fuel for radical generosity.



DNA 8: Be Generous

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Have you got a joyful attitude towards giving? If not, why not?

What do you really treasure and how does this encourage or limit your generosity?

What does it mean for you to be generous beyond your means?

Do you agree that radical generosity is a grace gift?

In which ways could you be more joyfully generous in terms of time and other resources for the benefit of the kingdom of God?

Describe how you could be generous in your gift of time, availability, ability, resource and gifting towards my brothers and sisters?



DNA 9: Be Real

Pretending to be ok all the time is exhausting and unfulfilling. We'd rather be real with God and each other and let the Holy Spirit change and grow us.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 11 & 12

In 2 Corinthians Paul the Apostle had a dilemma- shall I be real or give into pressure from others to be impressive? We often face the same dilemma. So, what does it mean to 'Be real' and what are the benefits?

Being Real means we can boast in our weakness

Our stock answer when we are asked how we are is often 'I'm fine'. We can spend a lot of time pretending that everything is ok. But living like this, always putting on a front is deeply unfulfilling. We can be real because our identity doesn't rest on other people's view of us but on God's, and we have been accepted by God. Therefore, we can be open about our struggles and weaknesses.

Being Real helps build deep relationships

Often, we want depth of relationships but without the risk of opening up. But relational superficiality doesn't grow us spiritually. We need to live in relational proximity with one another. Proximity helps us to grow because it means we cannot hide from each other.

Being Real brings spiritual growth

As we open ourselves up to others we can grow through the following:

Confession and confrontation with sin - Sin has a party when hidden away. It can fester on our fear of being ashamed. When we just confess on our own it can be difficult to throw off condemnation. We need others to re-shine the truth of the gospel into our lives and support us in prayer.

Growth in dependence on God - When we are real we grow in our dependence on God. We realise, like Paul did, that God's grace is sufficient for us. Paul's response to this truth was to determine all the more to boast in his weakness so that Christ power would be manifest in him.

Being real gives hope to a broken world - We do not offer hope to the world when we present as having everything together when we don't. The message of the gospel is not 'clean up and come' but 'come and be cleaned.'



DNA 9: Be Real

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Are you honest and open about your weaknesses?

What areas of your character and thought life would you like the Holy Spirit to strengthen?

Are you open to deepen your relationships with others in the church?

What areas of your life do you need to confess and confront your sin?

What areas of your life are you too closed and self-reliant? (Where more God reliance would be a real benefit)

Do you accept that you are not perfect – but are totally accepted by God?

What would it take for you to be more at ease sharing where you struggle, with other Christians I trust?



DNA 10: Give second chances

We all make mistakes all the time yet there is no limit to God's grace to us in Christ. As we have been forgiven so we seek to forgive each other when we get it wrong.

Scripture

Matthew 18.21-35

Jesus is always raising the bar. When Peter asks him if he should forgive his brother seven times, Jesus says 'not seven times, but seventy-seven times!' How can we live out such a radical call to forgiveness?

Understand the size of our debt

Like the debtor in the parable of Matthew 18, we had an enormous debt before God. We might think that we are not that bad a person but in God's eyes the debt of our sin was colossal, crushing, and unpayable. There was nothing we could do to balance the books. Nothing we could do to get out of the mess we were in.

Understand the scope of God's grace

The debtor in the parable is the recipient of outrageous grace and so are we! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought that all my debt has been nailed to the cross. Christ has born it for me. All of it. No ounce of my debt remains unpaid. What response should we expect of the servant and of us? Are we overwhelmed with gratitude at the mercy we have been shown? God's grace towards us should inform and motivate our own forgiveness towards others.

Understand the scourge of unforgiveness

The debtor in the parable stuns us by grabbing the throat of his own debtor and demanding immediate repayment. Unforgiveness is a great spoiler. Unforgiveness can be like a prison for both the offended and offending party. So how do we find freedom from it?

- Build a **rhythm of confession** to God and others
- Be **quick to forgive** – don't avoid the issues, don't foster bitterness. Confessed but confident in grace we would be quick to forgive and confront.
- Be willing to **give people another go** – forgiveness must be heart felt and not superficial. We can pay lip service to forgiveness and stay cold in our heart towards people.
- **Don't allow peoples flaws to define them** –we can be too quick to see the worst in people. Look for gold in people and not the dirt.



DNA 10: Give second chances

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Are you able to value the size of your own debt Jesus bore for you on the cross and let this inspire your willingness to forgive others?

How does God's grace towards you (being so forgiven) motivate your worship and attitude towards others?

Is there any unforgiveness in your life which you need to repent of and break through into real forgiveness for them?

Are you quick to forgive?

Are you willing to give people who have hurt you a second chance – what examples would you like to share of this?

What stops you seeing the gold in people that may have hurt or offended you?

What would it mean for you to build a rhythm of confession to God and others in the area of unforgiveness?



DNA 11: Get Involved

We believe everyone has been uniquely shaped and gifted by God to make up the church. So, don't watch from the sidelines; use what God has given you and get involved

Scripture

Romans 12:3-8

If Christianity was like a football pitch then you are uniquely designed and purposed to be on that pitch playing the game. You are not a substitute warming the bench nor are you a spectator but a first class, fully equipped player.

Attitude towards yourself

We can write ourselves off by having a non-biblical attitude about ourselves. We have so much in Christ. We are royal priests, a living temple. The list of who we are in Christ is awesome. Are you prepared to think soberly about how AMAZING you are in Christ?

Availability to others

Each member of the body belongs to all the others. You are gifted. God has given you spiritual gifts that are essential for the spiritual wellbeing of the church. You may discount yourself in this, but God certainly does not discount you. He loves to equip you in His word and His Spirit to grow in your gifting - but you have to be available to this cooperation.

Ability

Are you gifted? Yes! You are part of the body of Christ and that means you have been chosen to be part of God's Academy of Gifted Children. There are many gifts that are given to us by the Holy Spirit in different measures of grace. None of us are excluded. Your gifting gives you a God given ability to bless your brothers and sisters in a very unique way.

Assurance

You do not need to be afraid or anxious about this call to Get Involved with your gifting for the benefit of others - the word says that the Holy Spirit is here to give you guidance and comfort as you explore your unique function within the body.



DNA 11: Get Involved

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

Do you know your gifting? What are your gifts?

What factors affect your availability to use this gifting to bless your brothers and sisters?

How are you using your gifting?

What do you need to grow in your gifting?

How could you increase your knowledge of what the bible says about spiritual gifts?

How encouraging are you?

Who could you more regularly encourage in your life?



DNA 12: Pray First

God invites us to talk to Him, hears our prayers and has the power to answer them. So, we try to make prayer the first thing we do rather than our last resort

Scripture

Luke 11.1-13

It is ok to find prayer a struggle - so did the disciples. They spent three years with Jesus but had to ask Him how to pray. And he didn't tell them off or scold them His response was to gently show them how to pray effectively.

Object of Prayer

The focus of our prayer is not prayer itself, but God! When we pray, we are entering into a dialogue with our Father. The Father is accessible and loves to dialogue with us. We must be careful not to allow relationships with our earthly father to affect our view of our heavenly father and steal away the intimacy that is God's heart for us.

Purpose of Prayer

Prayer is primarily about **relationship**. Jesus invites us to share in His divine communion with the Father. It is not an activity; it is a relationship. We don't need to big on prayer, just big on getting to know Jesus.

Prayer is an act of **surrender**. Instead of going to God with a shopping list like we go to an online shopping site, we can pause at the start of the day and say, 'What is on your to do list today Father?'

Prayer is an act of **dependence** - it is our daily bread. Prayer is an essential daily act of spiritual nourishment.

Hope for our prayer

Prayer isn't merely a psychological exercise - God really hears our prayers. Imagine what would happen if we really believed in the power to bring about change in our and the lives of others. Our prayers are powerful - the enemy hates it when we pray - because there is so much power available for us.

God promises to give us the Holy Spirit to help us - the Spirit intercedes for us. It doesn't matter how unimpressive or patched up our sail is, the Holy Spirit is the wind that lifts our prayers.



DNA 12: Pray First

Reflections

Ask the Holy Spirit if He is prompting you to grow with His help in one of these areas highlighted during the sermon preach.

How is your prayer life?

Do you focus your prayers on the person of God as Father?

How does your prayer life express your desire to grow in intimacy with Him?

How can you allow God to show you what is on His prayer list for you?

Does your prayer life refresh and feed you?

Do you agree with the statement that you can have faith that God will answer your prayers?

What ways are you or could you be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance in your prayers?

How true is it that prayer is such a powerful expression of who you are as a follower of Jesus? What factors influence this?



Podcast resources

Here is a list of podcast resources which you can use to structure your discipleship times or to aid your own personal reflection.

The podcasts fall into 3 categories:

1. What Christians believe

For anyone looking into Christianity or any Christian wanting to grow in how to communicate the gospel.

2. Foundations

Looking at the foundational elements of discipleship. Valuable for all Christians, but particularly those who are new to faith.

3. DNA Values

Linked to the values in this booklet, covering a wide range of discipleship topics.

All the podcasts are available on our website.

| What Christians believe... | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. About God | | 7. About Salvation: Grace | |
| 2. About Humanity | | 8. About Salvation: Reconciliation | |
| 3. About Sin | | 9. About Salvation: Adoption | |
| 4. About Jesus | | 10. About Salvation: Assurance and hope | |
| 5. About The cross | | 11. About the church | |
| 6. About The resurrection | | | |
| Foundations | | | |
| 1. Listen and do: Repent and believe the gospel | | 6. Love others: Loving your neighbour | |
| 2. Listen and do: Be baptised | | 7. Give second chances: Forgive | |
| 3. Get involved: Gather | | 8. Share our hope: Holiness | |
| 4. Love God: Celebrate the Lord's supper | | 9. Be Generous: Giving | |
| 5. Get involved: Filled with the Holy Spirit | | | |
| DNA | | | |
| Love God | | Love others | |
| Thanksgiving | | The fruit of the Holy Spirit | |
| Singing | | Encouragement / Honour | |
| Obedience | | Share our hope | |
| Sacrifice & suffering | | Sharing the gospel | |
| Overcoming idols | | Empowered witness | |
| Listen and do | | Boldness / overcoming fear | |
| Make disciples | | Praying with unbelievers | |
| Daily Bread | | Pray First | |
| Understanding the bible | | Relationship | |
| Get involved | | Intercession | |
| Serving | | Listening / abiding | |
| Gifts of the Holy Spirit | | Spiritual warfare | |
| Signs and wonders | | Be real | |
| Give second chances | | Honesty | |
| Confession | | Singleness | |
| Reconciliation | | Marriage | |
| Be generous | | Parenting | |
| Sharing | | Approval and rejection | |
| Hospitality | | | |