

# How to use *explore*



## Issue 114

The 91 daily readings in this issue of *Explore* are designed to help you understand and apply the Bible as you read it each day.

## It's serious!

We suggest that you allow 15 minutes each day to work through the Bible passage with the notes. It should be a meal, not a snack! Readings from other parts of the Bible can throw valuable light on the study passage. These cross-references can be skipped if you are already feeling full up, but will expand your grasp of the Bible. *Explore* uses the NIV2011 Bible translation, but you can also use it with the NIV1984 or ESV translations.

Sometimes a prayer box will encourage you to stop and pray through the lessons—but it is always important to allow time to pray for God's Spirit to bring his word to life, and to shape the way we think and live through it.

## We're serious!

All of us who work on *Explore* share a passion for getting the Bible into people's lives.

We fiercely hold to the Bible as God's word—to honour and follow, not to explain away.

1

Find a time you can read the Bible each day

2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think

3

Ask God to help you understand

4

Carefully read through the Bible passage for today

5

Study the verses with *Explore*, taking time to think

6

Pray about what you have read

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# Welcome to *explore*

Being a Christian isn't a skill you learn, nor is it a lifestyle choice. It's about having a real relationship with the living God through his Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that this relationship is like a marriage.

It's important to start with this, because it is easy to view the practice of daily Bible reading as a Christian duty, or a hard discipline that is just one more thing to get done in our busy lives.

But the Bible is God speaking to us: opening his mind to us on how he thinks, what he wants for us and what his plans are for the world. And most importantly, it tells us what he has done for us in sending his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. It's the way that the Spirit shows Jesus to us, and changes us as we behold his glory.

Here are a few suggestions for making your time with God more of a joy than a burden:

- ☑ *Time:* Find a time when you will not be disturbed. Many people have found that the morning is the best time as it sets you up for the day. But whatever works for you is right for you.
- ☑ *Place:* Jesus says that we are not to make a great show of our religion (see Matthew 6:5-6), but rather, to pray with the door to our room shut. Some people plan to get to work a few minutes earlier and get their Bible out in an office or some other quiet corner.
- ☑ *Prayer:* Although *Explore* helps with specific prayer ideas from the passage,

do try to develop your own lists to pray through. Use the flap inside the back cover to help with this. And allow what you read in the Scriptures to shape what you pray for yourself, the world and others.

☑ *Feast:* You can use the “Bible in a year” line at the bottom of each page to help guide you through the entire Scriptures throughout 2026. This year, you will have an Old Testament and a New Testament passage to read, enjoy and reflect on each day. Over the course of the year, you'll read through the entire Bible once!

☑ *Share:* As the saying goes, *expression deepens impression*. So try to cultivate the habit of sharing with others what you have learned. Why not join our Facebook group to share your encouragements, questions and prayer requests? Search for *Explore: For your daily walk with God*.

And enjoy it! As you read God's word and God's Spirit works in your mind and your heart, you are going to see Jesus, and appreciate more of his love for you and his promises to you. That's amazing!



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# EASTER: My God, my God

*Pause a moment to consider this: what would it feel like to be abandoned by the person you most love in your hour of greatest need—and to know their displeasure?*

That gives us a small sense of the emotional force behind today's word from the cross.

## Read Matthew 27:32-50

- ❓ *Look at verse 46. What is significant about...*
  - *what Jesus says?*
  - *the way Jesus says it?*
- ❓ *What is the evidence that Jesus has indeed been forsaken by God (v 43, 45—see Amos 8:9 for the significance of darkness)?*

These words are not a whimper but a deep cry of anguish. This is the only time in the synoptic Gospels when Jesus does not address God as his Father. The bystanders mishear Jesus' cry to "Eli" and think he's calling "Elijah" (who Jewish tradition said would appear from heaven to help in times of trouble).

There are scarcely any words that can describe Jesus' agony. So it's significant that he reaches for Israel's songbook, the Psalms, to put words to the experience.

## Read Psalm 22:1-21

- ❓ *What similarities do you see between Psalm 22 and the scene in Matthew? Find as many as you can.*

For every hour of his life so far, Jesus has experienced only the love, delight and pleasure of his Father. But for these three dark and lonely hours, Jesus now experiences the full weight of God's anger at sin.

- ❓ *What, then, is the answer to Jesus' question in Matthew 27:46—"My God, why...?"*

Why? Jesus knows the answer to his own question, of course. He is willingly drinking the cup of God's wrath (Matthew 26:39); he is giving "his life as a ransom for many" (20:28). In that moment, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## Apply

Why did God forsake Christ? So that he can welcome you. So that you can enjoy the love, delight and pleasure of the Father every day of your life. Even in those times when you are too distressed to sleep (Psalm 22:2)... even when you are scorned by others (v 6)... even when your body is broken and your heart is faint (v 14)... Even then, you are not forsaken, because Christ became the forsaken man of Psalm 22 for you.

- ❓ *When God feels far away or as if he doesn't love you...*
  - *what hope does Matthew 27 give you to remember?*
  - *what words does Psalm 22 give you to pray?*

## Pray

Read through Psalm 22:1-21 again, thanking Jesus for enduring each specific agony for your sake.




# I am thirsty

*Try to remember a time when you were really, really thirsty. How would you describe the sensation, and the thoughts or feelings that accompanied it?*


Before we turn back to John's crucifixion account, let's trace the theme of "thirst" through his Gospel so far.

## The well

### Read John 4:4-14




-  *Who is thirsty (v 7)?*
-  *What kind of water does Jesus tell the woman she can have, if she asks (v 10)?*
-  *Where do we get that kind of water, and what does it give us (v 13-14)?*

So Jesus is moving the conversation from physical thirst to spiritual thirst.

-  *What exactly does it mean to be spiritually thirsty, do you think? How is that like physical thirst?*

## The river



### Read John 7:37-39

-  *Who is "thirsty" here?*
-  *What's the solution to this spiritual thirst (v 38)? Where do we get it, and what does it do for us?*
-  *What had to happen before people could receive this "living water" (end verse 39)?*

## Run dry

### Read John 19:28-29

The Scripture that John has in mind, as Jesus hangs on the cross, is probably Psalm 22:15.



-  *Who is "thirsty" now?*
-  *What do these words tell us about what the cross is achieving?*

Every human knows what it is to be thirsty; and every human knows what it is to be spiritually thirsty. Ever since Eden, we've rejected the Lord—the fount of "living water", who alone can keep us spiritually alive—and dug our own broken cisterns (Jeremiah 2:13). Like the woman at the well, we look to other people to satisfy us with their love or approval or admiration. But it doesn't work. Our thirst is killing us.

Not so for Jesus: he was a man whose soul sprang with life and vitality, in dependence on his Father and in the power of the Spirit. Yet on the cross he not only endured physical thirst but took on himself our spiritual condition: "I am thirsty". And in so doing, he opened up a spring of living water for anyone who would come to him and drink.

His thirst brought water; his death brought life. This was the moment of his greatest glory (John 7:39; 12:23). Will you come to him and drink?

## Apply

-  *Jesus thirsted so that you could drink. How should that change the way you think and feel about the other places you go to for satisfaction?*
-  *What will it look like for you to come to him and drink?*



# It is finished

*Hitting “send” on a big work project... emptying the ironing basket... completing an application process... Few words are as satisfying as this one: “FINISHED!”*

## Read John 19:30

- ❓ *“It is finished.” How might those words have sounded to those watching the crucifixion?*
- ❓ *How should they sound to believers on Good Friday 2026, do you think?*

The Greek word is *tetelestai*—finished, completed, done. In New Testament times it was written on business receipts to indicate that they were paid in full. This is no note of surrender but rather a cry of triumph—Christ’s saving work is finished. The sin of his people is paid for, in full, for ever.

### ..... TIME OUT .....

As with so much in this scene, we can hear in these words from the cross an echo of Psalm 22. We read the first part of this psalm two days ago—a song of immense suffering, rejection and despair. But then there’s a shift as the tone changes, and the psalm becomes a song of triumph.

## Read Psalm 22:22-31

- ❓ *What does this psalm hint that Jesus will achieve on the cross (v 26, 27, 29)?*

## ▼ Apply

Sometimes we are haunted by past mistakes that seem too much for mercy. But Jesus says, “It is finished”. There is no debt too big for him to pay.

Sometimes we mess up “big time”—or for the umpteenth time—and imagine that we need to withdraw from the Lord for a while until our guilt has “worn off”. But Jesus says, “It is finished”. You can run to him in repentance immediately and enjoy his forgiveness instantly.

Sometimes we get mired in feelings of resentment or jealousy that we can’t seem to move on from. But Jesus says, “It is finished”. He’s set you free from sin, so you don’t have to bring it into your day today.

Sometimes we live as if we’ve got something to prove—if not to God then at least to his people. But Jesus says, “It is finished”. You can stop striving because there’s nothing left to earn and no other approval that matters.

Sometimes we struggle to forgive other Christians. We keep chewing over the slight or injustice committed against us. But Jesus says, “It is finished”. Their penalty is paid in full, so you can entrust this to him.

- ❓ *Which of those scenarios is resonating with you at the moment? Bring it before the Lord in prayer now.*
- ❓ *When else this week might you need to remind yourself, “It is finished”? Make sure you do!*



# Father, into your hands

*Now we come to Jesus' final breath, and to his final words from the cross.*

## Read Luke 23:44-56

“[Jesus] breathed his last” (v 46). Look at the responses Luke portrays for us in the verses that follow.

- ?** *What do each of these people think has happened, and what do they expect to happen next, do you think?*
- *The centurion (v 47)*
  - *The crowd (v 48)*
  - *The women (v 49, 55-56)*
  - *Joseph (v 50-54)*

The tearing of the curtain in the temple hints at a victory, but on the hill outside Jerusalem it must look like defeat. Jesus' enemies have finally crushed him. The crowd express their grief but soon move on now that the show's over. Jesus' friends are quietly determined to honour him with a decent burial now that he's gone. The women go home and expect to return with their spices and perfumes after the Sabbath. No revival is anticipated. It's game over. Dead and buried.

But what about Jesus? What did he think would happen next? His final words give us a hint at what he expected to happen after his last breath. Once again, they're taken from a psalm.

## Read Psalm 31:1-5

- ?** *What is the psalmist's expectation in the face of his enemy's trap?*

Jesus' final words were a prayer to his Father as, with relief and assurance, he entrusted his soul into his hands. He was confident of deliverance beyond the grave. He had been obedient to his Father throughout life and even unto death (Philippians 2:6-8); so now he was assured of a glorious resurrection and welcome into heaven (Philippians 2:9-11). It wasn't game over but job done.

## Apply

- ?** *Do you ever contemplate your own moment of death? How does that make you feel?*

Psalm 31:5 isn't just words for King Jesus but words for his people too. The first Christian martyr, Stephen, prayed something similar as he died (Acts 7:59). There is no safer place for our souls than in our Father's hands.

Because Jesus faced death with obedience, we can face death with confidence. One day, as we die, we too can pray, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”, assured of deliverance beyond our final breath. There may be pain, but there need be no fear. It will not be game over but job done (Matthew 25:23).

- ?** *If we can face death with confidence, how will that shape...*
- *how we face life in the meantime?*  
(See Psalm 31:24.)
  - *how we pray for Christians who are approaching the end of their lives?*

# Peace be with you

A very happy Easter! On this Resurrection Sunday, we're looking at two words from that first Resurrection Sunday: one about the risen Jesus and one from the risen Jesus.

## The angels' words

### Read Luke 24:1-12

❓ *The shocks for these women keep coming, and keep getting bigger. What are they?*

• v 2 • v 3 • v 4 • v 6

❓ *What words of Jesus do the angels remind the women of (v 7)? Why are these significant?*

The women remember Jesus' words and—we can presume—believe them: Jesus has risen, just like he said! But the disciples do not believe the women's words, because they seem “like nonsense” (v 11).

## Apply

“He has risen.” Pause for a moment to think about the implications of those words. How many can you think of? (Can you get to ten? 20?) Here are a couple to get you started:

Jesus has risen, so...

... *everything he said was true.*

... *he is still alive today.*

Once you've thought of some more, spend some time in prayer, praising Jesus for each one.

## The Saviour's words

Later that day two disciples meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus (v 13-32). When they

realise what has happened, they rush back to Jerusalem to tell the others, only to be greeted with the news that Jesus has also appeared to Simon (v 34). There's an excited swapping of stories as the room buzzes with discussion. Then into the hubbub breaks a familiar voice...

### Read Luke 24:36-49

❓ *What's surprising about verse 37?! How does Jesus reassure them (v 38-43)?*

❓ *Jesus reminds them of his words (v 44), and then the words of Scripture (v 45-47). Why, do you think?*

We've seen how Jesus was concerned to fulfil Old Testament Scripture as he died. Now that he is risen, he opens the disciples' minds so that they can understand those Scriptures too (v 45). His death was not a sign of his failure but of his status as God's Messiah (a fact confirmed by his resurrection)—and the very means by which he brings forgiveness of sins. This is a message worth sharing (v 48)!

## Pray

“Peace be with you!” Pray again, praising Jesus for the peace with God that you now enjoy, and the presence of God with you by his Spirit that you now experience. Then **read Luke 24:50-53** and head into your day “with great joy”—Jesus is risen, and he's brought you peace!

# 2 CORINTHIANS: Gospel generosity

In chapter 8 Paul begins the longest, most rigorous, most sustained treatment of a gospel-shaped attitude to money in the whole Bible.

Why? Because he needed money. It's easy to forget that these are real letters, written to real people for pressing and urgent reasons. Paul wanted the Corinthians to give so that their poor brothers and sisters could eat.

But that isn't Paul's only motive.

## Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

- ❓ *What does Paul want the Corinthians to know about (v 1)?*
- ❓ *What is the evidence of this (v 2)?*

The churches of Macedonia have blown Paul away with their selfless generosity, and he knows this can only come from the grace of God.

- ❓ *How do we see that this giving is sacrificial?*
- ❓ *How do we see that this giving is spiritual and God-oriented?*

## Giving to God

The idea of joyful giving is a strange concept for most of us. But the Macedonians actually begged to be allowed to give! That's because they knew that giving money to other believers was the overflow of giving themselves to the Lord.

Ultimately, this passage isn't about money—it's about living for Jesus.

That's why Paul tells the Corinthians to give like the Macedonians, and he has sent Titus to see through the possibility of a collection among them (v 6). They have an opportunity to put their money where their mouth is.

## Gain and loss

We usually think something is lost when we give it away. The Macedonians had been freed up by the gospel, and so they realised that to give, even in their poverty, is to gain, not to lose.

## Apply

- ❓ *How do you think you would have felt to have received this letter from Paul?*
- ❓ *How easy do you find it to give away money or possessions?*
- ❓ *Does it help to think of giving money as a way of giving yourself to God?*
- ❓ *What do you think would happen if you gave as generously as the Macedonians?*

## Pray

Pray for the ministries which you or your church support financially. Thank God for the grace to give. Pray that he would show you whether your own giving needs to change in any way.



# Giving like Jesus

*Things are rarely black and white when it comes to money. So Paul's tone in today's passage is persuasive rather than commanding.*

But his concern is that the Corinthians would display real selflessness, which would lead to the strengthening of others.

## Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Paul starts by reminding the Corinthians of the comparison he has just made with the Macedonians and their “earnestness”.

Then he pulls out his biggest theological gun and tells them to act like Jesus (v 9).

**?** *How many ways can you think of in which Jesus “became poor” for our sake?*

## Follow through

In particular, the Corinthians need to follow through on their pledges (v 10-11). If you say you are going to support someone financially, then go and fill out the forms. If you say you're going to pray for someone, do it straight away. If you say you are going to show up somewhere, then make sure you are there. Follow through on your commitments. Why? Because Jesus did.

- ?** *What can get in the way of doing what we have committed to do?*
- ?** *Who do we tend to be prioritising in those situations?*
- ?** *How is that different to Christ's attitude?*

## Fairness

**?** *How does Paul say that things will be made fair (v 12-14)?*

Paul's ideal is that Christian believers would choose to put others first, caring for each other when they can—in a kind of grace-driven equilibrium. Nobody is keeping score, but there is a natural ebb and flow as we live together in dependence, without either shame, which would stop us asking for help, or greed, which would stop us giving it.

In verse 15, Paul supports this principle with Exodus 16:18, which is about the manna in the wilderness. God gave just the right amount: no more, no less.

We usually spend as much as we can afford on ourselves. But Paul says that the way of Christ is to lavish whatever we can on others for the sake of the gospel.

## Pray

Thank God for the ways in which he has provided for you.

Ask him to help you to see where you could be generous with what you have.

If you are in need, ask him to provide what you lack through your brothers and sisters.

# An earnest appeal

*Asking for money often feels awkward—and it did for Paul as much as it does for us.*

It's hard enough to sort out one motive from another within ourselves, let alone persuade others that we really are honest and worth giving money to.

In today's passage, Paul describes three men whom the Corinthians can really trust.

## Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

### Servant hearts

- ❓ *What does Paul admire about Titus (v 16-17)?*
- ❓ *What does he admire about the brother whom he talks about in verse 18?*
- ❓ *What does he say about the other brother whom he mentions in verse 22?*

This party of three was appointed by “the churches” (v 19)—presumably the key churches in Macedonia—to collect money and make sure that the gift was received, so that the church in Jerusalem would be encouraged and God himself glorified.

Paul doesn't tell us the names of these two other brothers because that isn't the point. The point is that, along with Titus, these two men are committed to serving in and through the gospel.

### Beyond reproach

- ❓ *What two reasons does Paul give for collecting the money in person (v 19)?*

- ❓ *What wrong impression does he worry that people will have (v 20)?*
- ❓ *But what does he insist is his aim (v 21)?*

For Paul, it is an absolute non-negotiable that things are done properly—that is, in a way which brings honour to God and also doesn't drag the church needlessly into disrepute. He knows that fights and accusations about money will kill off gospel ministry more quickly than almost anything else. When it comes to money, we need to be beyond reproach, because only then will people be able to see that the gospel produces genuine servant-heartedness.

This is not so that we are recognised as honourable for our own sake but so that nothing hinders the gospel.

- ❓ *In each of the descriptions of the three men, how do we see true gospel-centred servant-heartedness?*

### Apply

- ❓ *How do people who make appeals for money nowadays compare with Paul and the brothers he describes? Does that affect your decision about whether or not to give?*
- ❓ *What mixed motives do you have when you spend or give money? How could you make sure you are beyond reproach?*

# Gospel integrity

*You know what you need to do, says Paul—now get on and do it.*

Others have been encouraged by the Corinthians' loud pledges—but now the time has come to deliver. The Corinthians either have to come up with the money or there will be humiliation all round.

## Be ready

### Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-4

- ❓ *Why does Paul not bother describing the ministry which the money will pay for (v 1-2)?*
- ❓ *What impact has Paul's confidence in the Corinthians had (v 2)?*
- ❓ *But what is his worry (v 4)?*

For Paul, the failure of the Corinthians to come through on their word would be a very big deal indeed. He puts his reputation and relationship on the line—if they fail to keep their promise, then they will be shaming Paul, who had trusted their word and made promises to others on their behalf.

Underneath this is the principle that the gospel produces integrity. God has spoken to us reliably and kept every promise he makes, so we need to make every effort to speak reliably to others.

- ❓ *Do you think Paul was right to boast about the Corinthians' generosity?*
- ❓ *What would you have felt if you had been among the Corinthians reading this letter?*

## Be cheerful

### Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-7

The phrase “not as ... grudgingly given” (v 5) could be translated as “not as an expression of stinginess”. The gift is to be free, generous, and ready when Titus gets there. They are to make up their minds about how much they will give, and then give it willingly.

- ❓ *What two reasons does Paul give for this in verses 6-7?*

We tend to live by a different and more worldly proverb: God gives credit to a reluctant but careful giver. In verse 7, Paul seems to have something a little freer, a little more lavish, in mind. When it comes to giving, extravagance is good!

So, when we can't give, let's make sure we see it as Paul does—as missing out.

## Apply

- ❓ *What difference has it made to you when people have followed through on their word?*
- ❓ *In what areas of your life could you be a better model of that kind of integrity?*
- ❓ *What stops you from making up your mind about how much to give, and then giving it cheerfully?*

Ask for God's help in making you into a cheerful giver.

# Abundance

*What do you fear missing out on? And what would make missing out worthwhile?*

The kind of gospel-shaped life that leads us to give generously will not feel like missing out. Why? Because God will continue to supply us with whatever we need to get on with the work of the gospel.

## Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

- ❓ *What does Paul think is the best of God's gifts?*
- ❓ *How does he show this in verses 8 and 10?*

Our God loves to drench us with good things. But he does not give any blanket guarantees of either wealth or health. Paul's allusions in verse 10—to Isaiah 55:10, which is primarily about God's word, and to Hosea 10:12, which is about righteousness—show that he has moved far beyond finance to the way in which God works in and through the gospel. If God enriches us, it is to make us generous (2 Corinthians 9:11).

This is why we can afford to give generously. It isn't that we give and God gives back to us, or that he gives more, or anything like that. Our giving demonstrates that we believe the gospel and trust God to do us good, in riches or poverty.

## Apply

- ❓ *Who should we thank when we have enough to eat?*
- ❓ *What about when we see ourselves being kind, good and generous?*

## The net result

- ❓ *What are the effects of the gifts of generosity and good works (v 11-14)...*
  - on the Corinthians?
  - on those receiving their gifts?
  - on God?
- ❓ *Which of these things do you think is most surprising or counter-cultural?*
- ❓ *Which do you find most compelling and motivating?*

The solid commitment that the Corinthians have shown by giving their money will spill over into prayer, as God's people cry together, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (v 15).

- ❓ *What gifts could Paul include in his prayer of thanksgiving? Think about both spiritual gifts and material gifts, given both to individuals and to groups of people.*
- ❓ *How many of these gifts could we thank God for today?*

## Pray

Thank God for his indescribable gift to us in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for all the abundance which that includes.

Ask God for his help in living in the light of this deep generosity.

# Love wins

*There are few things harder to cope with than a personal attack—when people question our convictions, our character or our competence.*

We need to be ready—ready both to listen and to refute lies, both to be corrected and to stand firm. So how do we know which to do? How do we get the balance right?

- ❓ *Think about a time when others have disagreed with your beliefs. Which do you find harder: to listen and be corrected, or to stand firm and refute lies?*

In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul finally tackles the specific accusations which have been levelled against him in Corinth. His response is marked by seven principles which provide an excellent approach to attacks. We'll look at these over the next three studies.

## Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-8

### 1: Be meek and gentle

Apparently, the accusation levelled at Paul was that he was a roaring lion when he was miles away with a pen in his hand, but a little lamb when he actually showed up. That's reflected in the second half of verse 1.

But Paul now responds with Christ-like meekness and gentleness. He is controlled, gracious and gentle. He can do this because the Spirit enables him.

### 2: Trust the truth

- ❓ *What is the accusation against Paul in verse 2?*

“Walking according to the flesh” (ESV) means being unspiritual. But Paul's

down-to-earth gospel ministry is the real thing. Yes, he is a frail human being, but his ministry has divine power.

- ❓ *How does Paul show gentleness in the way he speaks about his boldness (v 2)?*
- ❓ *What do Paul's “weapons”—his gospel proclamation—have power to do (v 4-6)?*

Paul longs not to have to confront those who are undermining him—but, if he has to, he will. Why? *Because this really matters.* His opponents want to accommodate the gospel to other philosophical ideas, but Paul refuses to compromise the truth. He's not interested in spiritual or intellectual impressiveness. It is all about the gospel.

### Apply

- ❓ *Which aspect of Paul's approach do you find more challenging: his gentleness or his boldness?*
- ❓ *What arguments or opinions do people you know raise against Christ? How does this passage give you confidence to answer them?*

### Pray

Ask God to give you wisdom to be both gentle and bold at the right times.




Ask him to show his power through you as he did through Paul.

# Sing!

*This psalm has strong similarities with Psalm 96—a remix, if you like, of a familiar tune. But this is a song we should never get tired of singing.*



## Sing it

### Read Psalm 98:1-3

-  *What reasons are we given for singing “a new song”?*
-  *What word do we see repeated in all three verses?*
-  *Who has seen all this (v 2-3)?*

In Revelation we get a glimpse of another “new song” sung by the company of heaven.

### Read Revelation 5:9-10.

-  *How exactly did God “work salvation”?*
-  *What do you find most “marvellous” about it?*

Through Christ, God faithfully fulfilled the promises made to Israel (Psalm 98:3). But it gets better: now people to “the ends of the earth” not only get to witness salvation, but also experience it themselves. And it is all God’s work: “He has done ... his right hand ... the LORD has made...” We need only see his salvation and receive it.



This is truly “marvellous”. It is worth singing about!

## Pray

Sing to God for his marvellous work of salvation. Pray for people, both those close to home and around the world, whom you long would see and receive it too.

## Sing it louder!

### Read Psalm 98:4-9


-  *What different sounds are joining in the song? Close your eyes and try to imagine this euphony of praise!*
-  *Why do they sing (v 9)?*

Verse 9 could be seen as a bit of a surprise. The creation sings for joy because God comes to “judge the earth”. But for believers, the day of judgment will be a day of salvation. “He comes” to make everything right and remove all our sorrow and sin.

And for the creation, that day will usher in a wonderful new era. The apostle Paul writes that “the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed” (Romans 8:19). On that day, the curse of sin will be removed. Rivers will no longer flood; they’ll clap their hands. Mountains will no longer landslide; they’ll sing for joy.

## Apply

Every time we sing together as God’s people (Psalm 98:4-6), it’s like a mini rehearsal for the day “he comes”.

-  *How will remembering Psalm 98 change the way you sing next time you are gathered with your church family?*