



devonport
church of christ

TERM 2 2026

A 5-week Small Group Study



THIS IS US

Core Values and Purpose Statement of Devonport Church of Christ

Sermon-based Small Group Studies are designed to be explored with your Small Group after hearing the Sunday sermon.

To access the sermon again, please head to the church website
www.devonportcoc.com.au or YouTube channel.

Email: reception@devonportcoc.com.au

There is space for taking notes or writing down action steps in the back of this booklet.

This Is Us is about discovering the brand-new purpose statement and new core values of Devonport Church of Christ:

Purpose Statement

Living out the Words, Ways, and Generosity of Jesus and inviting others to do the same.

New Core Values

- **Jesus First**
- **More Than Sundays**
- **All In**
- **Transformation**

About This Series

Every church is shaped by what it values. Over many months of prayer, listening, discernment, conversation, and seeking God's direction together, the church leadership sensed the Holy Spirit leading us to clarify who God is calling us to be as a church family.

These values are not simply aspirational statements or organisational goals. They reflect the kind of disciples Jesus calls us to become and the culture we believe God is inviting us to cultivate. They have emerged through prayerful dependence on God, thoughtful reflection on Scripture, and a shared desire to follow where He is leading.

As we journey through this series, we are not merely studying a set of values—we are exploring a way of life. Our prayer is that these values would move from words on a page to lived realities in our homes, relationships, ministries, and community as we become the disciples Jesus is calling us to be.

Living Out the Words, Ways, and Generosity of Jesus and Inviting Others to Do the Same

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 4:19
- Luke 6:40
- John 13:34–35
- Acts 2:42–47

Introduction

Jesus calls us to more than belief—He calls us to follow Him. As disciples, we learn His words, imitate His ways, embrace His generosity, and invite others into the same journey. Our purpose is not simply to attend church but to become people who increasingly reflect Jesus in everyday life.

Icebreaker Questions

1. What is one area of your life that you would like to have a personal mentor or coach for? (Finances, fitness, career, parenting, faith...)
2. Share an act of generosity you've never forgotten.

From the Scriptures

1. Read Matthew 4:19 and Luke 6:40. What does Jesus mean by “fishers of men”? How are these two verses connected?

2. According to John 13:34–35, how does Jesus say people will recognise His disciples? Do you think this is recognisable in you?
3. Read Acts 2:42–47. What rhythms and priorities marked the early church? Which of these rhythms or priorities represent an area where your personal discipleship could grow?

Life Application Questions

1. Which part of Jesus' life is hardest for you to imitate right now: His words, His ways, or His generosity?
2. How can your everyday life become more invitational toward others, particularly those who don't know Jesus?
3. What is one practical way you can show Jesus' generosity this week, with an act of hospitality, mercy or kindness? Plan to do it. Be ready to share how it went next time you meet.

Prayer

Pray for an opportunity to practice intentional generosity like Jesus this week.

Jesus First: Putting Jesus at the Centre of Everything

Catchup

How did you go practicing an act of generosity, hospitality or kindness since you last met?

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 6:33
- Colossians 1:15–20
- Luke 9:23–25
- Philippians 3:7–8

Introduction

Following Jesus begins with placing Him at the centre. When Jesus is first, every other priority finds its proper place. Discipleship means continually re-ordering our lives around His kingdom, His will, and His purposes.

Icebreaker Questions

1. What is the first thing that gets your attention in the morning?
2. What's something you once considered important that matters less to you now?

From the Scriptures

1. Read Matthew 6:28-33. What does Jesus promise when we seek God's kingdom first?
2. In Colossians 1:15–20, what descriptions reveal Jesus' authority and supremacy?
3. Read Luke 9:23 and Philippians 3:7–8. What does “deny yourself and take up your cross” mean in your everyday life?

Life Application Questions

What competes with Jesus for first place in your life?

1. Are any of these subtle competitors sneaking up to first on your priority list: comfort, success, busyness, control, people pleasing, worry, something else?
2. If someone looked at your calendar and your bank statement, what would they conclude is most important to you?
Do they reflect the supremacy of Christ in your life?
3. What would change if every major decision began with the question, “What honours Jesus most?”

Takeaway

What's your main takeaway or action step from today's study about putting Jesus first? Who can you share this with (outside your group)?

More Than Sundays: Following Jesus as a Daily Lifestyle

Catchup

Did you share your main take-away from last week with someone?

Key Scriptures

- Romans 12:1–2
- Deuteronomy 6:5–9
- James 1:22-25
- John 5:17–20

Introduction

Discipleship is more than church attendance. Following Jesus means living with our spiritual antennas up - attentive to the activity, prompting, and presence of God in everyday life. We gather on Sundays, but we follow Jesus every day.

Icebreaker Questions

1. What is one weekly routine you never miss?
2. Have you ever had a moment where you sensed God was doing something unexpected in your day?

From the Scriptures

1. Read Romans 12:1. What does it mean to offer our bodies as “living sacrifices” and how does this shape everyday discipleship?
2. In Deuteronomy 6:5–9, how were God’s people instructed to weave faith into ordinary daily life?
Now read James 1:22-25. How does James extend this idea?
3. Read John 5:17–20. What does Jesus reveal about paying attention to the work and activity of the Father?

Life Application Questions

1. In what ways do you find yourself tempted to reduce discipleship to external markers, rather than inward transformation and obedience?
2. What might it look like for your “spiritual antenna” to be more attentive to God throughout the week? Think of one practical habit that could help you notice and respond to God’s activity in everyday moments.
3. Share a time when you have acted on a Holy Spirit prompting, whether it is to make a meal or pray for someone, or to obey God in a step of personal discipleship.

Prayer

Pray for attentiveness to God’s Spirit at work during this week/fortnight, and the courage to follow God’s prompting.

All In: Wholehearted Surrender and Commitment to Jesus

Catchup

How did you go trying to intentionally notice and join in where God was at work in the last week/fortnight?

Key Scriptures

- Mark 12:28–30
- Luke 14:25–33
- Revelation 3:15–20
- Matthew 10:7-8, 1 Peter 3:15

Introduction

Jesus never called people to casual discipleship. Following Him involves wholehearted devotion, surrender, and a willingness to place Him above every competing allegiance. The invitation of Jesus is not to comfort but to commitment.

Icebreaker Questions

1. What's something you've gone "all in" on before?
2. What do you think motivates wholehearted commitment in people?

From the Scriptures

1. Why does Jesus emphasize loving God with *all* our heart, soul, mind, and strength in Mark 12:28–30?

Now read Luke 14:25–33. How do these passages go hand in hand?

2. Read Revelation 3:15–20. What warning does Jesus give the lukewarm church? What is the encouragement from these verses?
3. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 1 Peter 3:15. Are you hot, cold, or lukewarm in your desire to share your faith?
4. Re-read Mark 12:28-30. Jesus connects loving God wholeheartedly and loving others. How does this relate to being a disciple-maker?

Life Application Questions

1. Surrender is not a one-time event but an ongoing posture. What area of your life is hardest to fully surrender to God? What distractions or fears keep you “lukewarm” rather than wholehearted in your devotion to Jesus?
2. How would “all in” discipleship look different for you this week/fortnight? Discuss areas where Jesus may be inviting deeper trust, obedience, sacrifice, or faith this week.

Takeaway

What’s your main takeaway or action step from today’s study about wholehearted commitment and surrender to Jesus?

Transformation: Becoming More Like Jesus

Catchup

Did you face any opposition to being a wholehearted disciple since you last met?

Key Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Romans 12:2
- John 15:1–8
- Galatians 5:22–25

Introduction

The goal of discipleship is transformation. Jesus invites us into a lifelong process of becoming more like Him. As we remain connected to Him, the Holy Spirit shapes our character, renews our minds, and produces fruit that reflects the life of Christ.

Icebreaker Questions

1. What's one way you've changed significantly over the years?
2. Have you ever seen someone transformed in an inspiring way?

From the Scriptures

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to be a “new creation”?

2. According to Romans 12:2 how does transformation happen?
3. Transformation is God's work, but participation is our responsibility.

In John 15:1–8, what is the link between abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit?

Life Application Questions

1. Where have you seen God changing you recently?
2. Read Galatians 5:22-25. Which fruit of the Spirit do you most want God to grow in your life?

Is there something you need to surrender so God's Spirit can transform your heart and that fruit can grow in your life?
3. Which spiritual habits help you stay connected to the "vine" (Jesus)?

If you completed the Spiritual Health Reflection from *Practicing the Way*, check back on your goals and how you're doing.

Final Challenge

As you complete this series, consider:

- What has God been saying to you about who you are becoming?
- Which of these themes—Purpose, Jesus First, More Than Sundays, All In, or Transformation—has challenged you most?
- What is one next step Jesus is inviting you to take?

