

Housegroup Notes Autumn 2026.

Introduction:

This autumn, Sunday mornings will attempt to sketch a foundational understanding of the good news that is presented to us throughout Scripture, finding its fulfilment in Christ.



The following words are taken from the teaching overview:

The good news of the gospel is about Jesus Christ, who restores the **image of God** broken by *sin and commissions a new humanity, released from the power of sin and death, to live as witnesses to the wonder of God's redemptive work and to what it is to be truly human. The good news of the gospel is about not only **the restoration of a broken image but also the restoration of a broken relationship.** It deals with the barrier of sin and death and creates the church as a new people in Christ. It communicates that God is with us. It speaks to the present and opens the future. And it does much more... It is wonder-full.*

It affects how we treat each other, how we view our embodied present and our embodied future, it re-orientes us around Christ and makes our life about the glory of God not self, it turns people from idols to true worship.

*It is big. All-encompassing. Transformative. **It is hope for the world. And for individuals.***

CS Lewis wrote of his response to the good news, "***I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.***" So, this series looks not just in the achievement of the good news but its transformative effect in the lives of those who receive it,

This teaching on the good news is focused on two key ideas:

- **The image of God**, which is developed through the notion of being witnesses and being light to the world.
- **God with us.** The good news finds its culmination in a restored and full relationship with God, knowing his presence in new creation. This is the essence of shalom: everything in its right relation. The good news renews us in Christ as the firstfruits of a new creation, so that we can have right relationship with God, with ourselves, with other and with creation itself.
- Colossians 1 reminds us, ***¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***



Notes for w/b October 18th, 2026, Come Home.



- Have you ever been lost?
- Share some stories of what that felt like...
- What did it feel like when you recovered a sense of where you were?
- Do you think people who do not believe feel lost? How does that manifest itself?



- Spend some time praying for the 'lost'. This may mean different things.
- How can you pray grace into people's lives?



Read Luke 15.11-32

• This parable has been called the parable of the lost son, the parable of the prodigal son and the parable of the running father (Anna shared this leading communion a few weeks ago). What do you think would be the best name for the parable and why?

- If we are speaking about the good news referring to being made in God's image what does this parable have to teach us?
- If we are speaking about the good news referring to God's desire to be with us, what does this parable have to teach us?
- How might the younger son in this story feel lost?
- Read also John 14.1-6. Here Jesus teaches about how to come home with him?
 - How does this relate to the parable in Luke?
 - Is there a difference between being lost and not knowing the way?
 - How does Jesus answer this and how might you apply that to your life?
- Read verses 17-21.
 - What does the son decide he has to do in order to come home? What does he say to his father? What does he expect?
 - What do we need to do to come home to our Father?
 - Is the good news in the son's action or the father's? How might we apply that?
- At the end of the parable the older brother has not come home. Why? What danger does that signify for us?
 - For context you might like to read Luke 15.1-2.
 - Who was Jesus originally addressing?
 - What impact might this story have had on that audience?



If we are made in the image of God and this parable speaks of the character of God in the Father, what might we pray for in our lives at this time?

Are there situations you are facing where you need the Spirit's help to show the character of the Father? Can you share them and pray into them?

What aspects of the experience of the older brother and the younger brother might shape your prayer and your living this week?

