

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 4th October 2026

Dead to Sin, Raised in Christ



Before we turn to look at Ephesians 2, which is concerned with our status before God, our rescue and the life we are called to live in Christ, **read Ephesians 1.15-23.**

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
- How does it tell of a status conferred on him by his resurrection?
- What do you think is the heart of Paul's prayer for the church here?



The prayer in Ephesians 1 is a prayer of thanksgiving based on what God has done for us in Christ?

Spend some time together thanking God led by these verses.



Read Ephesians 2.1-10.

- As the text is being read, consider which verse or phrase here would you consider as being most worth remembering.
- Share your verses and reasons in pairs.
- Share more widely in the group by explaining what your partner suggested.

Paul writes of the good news we have by speaking of a before, after and so what...

The good news is about being rescued from something. Read verses 1-3. These verses are addressed to those who were something and are now something different. The good news here is expressed in a transformation.

- Spend some time discussing the picture of life without Christ.
 - What do you think are the key phrases?
 - What does it suggest Jesus came to address and heal?
 - How can you speak of your experience of this?

Read verses 4-7

- In these verses how important are the words 'with' and 'in'?
- To what extent do you think these verses are speaking about the cross? To what extent are they speaking about the resurrection?
- What does verse 6 imply about our position now? How does that reflect on Genesis 1.26-27 and the command to rule?
- Verse 7 implies that we are a 'display' of God's grace. How do you think we should respond to this?

Read verses 8-10

- What does grace mean here? How do you experience it? Do you live in grace?
- Verse 10 says that being saved is being newly created in Christ with works to do...
- In what sense is the good news about 'works' for us to do as well as 'works' that have been done for us?
- In what sense are the works for us to do expressions of grace?



Read again Ephesians 2.10.

What so God calling you to go to? How is he calling you to go?

Pray commissioning prayer over one another for the rest of the week to be good news carriers and agents of new creation in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.