

House group 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-orientates 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 others 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 September 20th, 2026

Accommodating God

The Bible speaks wanting to be with people- that is the end of our salvation, enjoying the uninterrupted and immediate presence of God. It is an essential part of the good news.

How this works out is different at different stages of the Bible narrative.



What does it mean to you when we talk about experiencing God's presence? What does it mean when we talk about experiencing God's absence? Can you experience absence if you have not experienced presence?



Read the following verses:

Deuteronomy 31.8, Joshua 1.9, Psalm 23.4

What does this say about God's presence? Is the verse specific to a person or situation? Is it occasional?

Read Jeremiah 29.13

Does this add anything to our understanding of experiencing the presence of God?

Pray out of Jeremiah 29.13 for your evening

OR

Read Luke 10.38-42

What does this say about experiencing the presence of God

You might like to pause, pray and listen to this song [To be in your presence](#)



Tonight we are going to look at three different passages that speak of God with people in the Old Testament. You might like to separate into smaller groups to discuss and then share back if you have a larger gathering.

- Read Exodus 13.21-22, 40.36-38, Numbers 9.17, 22
- Read Exodus 40.34-35, 2 Chronicles 6.18-21, 7.1-3
- Read Isaiah 43.1-13

What does each of these readings tell us about the presence of God with his people in the Old Testament?

What limitations are there in these verses in terms of experiencing the presence of God?

How is our experience similar and different?

How can we be encouraged by each of these sections of scripture? What principles might be discerned?



Share something of how you need or would like to know the presence of God this week in your circumstances?

Allow your conversations to become prayer

End by praying the grace over each other, which is about the presence of God... 2 Cor 13.14