

# For such a time as this



Bible Passages To Help  
Negotiate The Journey

Grow Group Studies @ NBBC

April	19 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Rom 8:31-39</b>
	26 <sup>th</sup>		More than conquerors
May	3 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>Phil. 4:4-13</b>
	10 <sup>th</sup>		The Lord is near
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers Day	<b>1John - Love</b>
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Missionary #1	True love
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Missionary #2	<b>Esther 4</b>
June	7 <sup>th</sup>	Missionary #3	For such a time as this
	14 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Psalm 55</b>
	21 <sup>st</sup>		mission form the mess
	28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>2Cor 8:1-5</b>
			<b>2Cor 5:11-21</b>
			<b>Psalm 46</b> Be still
			<b>John 14:15-27</b>
			<b>Matt 11:25-30</b>

## Romans 8:28-39

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

‘For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **For such a time as this - Romans 8:28-39 - More than conquerors**

Q1 - What is the most memorable sporting victory (yours or the team you support) in your life time?

Read the passage out loud together.

Q2 - v28 - What does Paul know that helps him deal with all the difficulties and problems of life? (See 2Cor 11:24-29 for some of Paul's struggles) - How could this knowledge help you?

Q3 - v29-30 - What is Paul's basis for being so confident?

Q4 - What proof does Paul provide for our absolute confidence in life?

1. Who could defeat us? V31 - 32
2. Who could condemn us? V33-34
3. Who or what could separate us from the love of Christ? 35-39

Q5 - What does it mean that we are MORE than conquerors? V37

Q6 - How could you be more than a conqueror during this time of COVID19?

Q7 - How do you think we as a Church can?

Q8 - Which of these verses would you choose as a memory verse for the coming week?

## Philippians 4:4-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

## **For such a time as this - Phil. 4:4-13 - The Lord is near**

Q1 - Who has been the best next door neighbour you have ever had?

Read the passage out loud together.

Q2 - What causes you the most anxiety in life? Work or school? Relationships? Finances? Trauma? Illness? Personal failure? Grief? The future? Other?

Q3 - What is the antidote to worry? Write it out in your own words.

V4 Anxiety can be subdued by ....

V5 Anxiety can be subdued by ....

V6 Anxiety can be subdued by ....

V8 Anxiety can be subdued by ....

Give yourself a score out of 10 for each. Which one needs the most work?

Q4 - v9 - Who has been a good role model for you in dealing with anxiety and why?

Q5 - v10-12 - What is your definition of contentment?

How is contentment an antidote to anxiety?

Q6 - v13 - What is the secret of being content and how would you explain it using an example from your life?

Q7 - What special significance does this passage hold for you during this unique time of COVID19?

## **1John (selection)**

**1 John 2:3-6** - 3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

**1 John 2:15-17** - 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever.

**1 John 3:16-18** - 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**1 John 4:10-12** - 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**1 John 4:16-21** - 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## **For such a time as this - 1John (Selection) - Real Love**

Q1 - 'Hypocrite' comes from the Greek word 'hypokrites', which means "an actor." The Greek word took on an extended meaning to refer to any person who was wearing a figurative mask and pretending to be someone or something they were not. Christians are often called hypocrites. Do you think this is fair?

Read the passage out loud together.

Q2 - 2:3-6 - From these verses how would you describe what it means to “live as Jesus did” ?

Q3 - 2:15-17 - What is the warning of these verses? What are the equivalents in today’s world?

Q4 - 3:16-18 - From these verses, what would be your definition of real love?

Q5 - 4:10-12 - What is the only right and proper motive for love and how is it expressed?

Q6 - 4:16-18 - What does love have to do with our confidence in our future salvation?

Q7 - “perfect love drives out fear.” What do you think this means?

Q8 - 4:19-21 - How do these verses challenge you? What will you do in response this coming week?



## Esther 4

1 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. 2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. 3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. 6 So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. 9 Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 'All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold sceptre to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.'

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: 'Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?'

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

## **For such a time as this - Esther 4 - Are you ready?**

Q1 - The story so far: Many of the Jews are still in exile in Persia. The evil Persian Haman who was a noble of the King, plotted to kill off the remaining Jews. Meanwhile a Jewish girl, Esther, is chosen as the King's new bride. Mordecai, who was Esther's adopted father, pleads with her to use her position as Queen to stop the genocide.

Read the passage out loud together.

Q2 - What strikes you about this encounter?

Q3 - v1-5 - Describe how Mordecai and the Jews respond to the news of persecution.

Q4 - Do you know of any people groups in a similar situation today? How could we respond?

Q5 - V6-11 - What dilemma does Esther face? How do you think she felt?

Q6 - v12-14 - What challenge does Mordecai send to Esther? What impresses you about her response?

Q7 - COVID19 is a peculiar time in history. What special role do you think God is calling you "for such a time as this?"

Q8 - v15-17 - What important steps were taken before Esther acted? Why so important?

Q9 - "For such a time as this." During COVID 19 what purpose do you think God has for you in this time?

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. 3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. 4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. 5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. 6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 8 "He trusts in the Lord ; let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." 9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. 10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. 12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. 13 Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. 19 But you, O Lord , be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. 20 Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. 21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. 22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

23 You who fear the Lord , praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! 24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. 25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise him-may your hearts live forever! 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord , and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him-those who cannot keep themselves alive. 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-for he has done it.

## **For such a time as this - Psalm 22 - Mission from the mess**

Q1 - “We often grow in faith most when we are faced with struggles.”  
Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read the passage out loud together.

Q2 - What is it that David is struggling with in life and which ones do you relate to if any?

- V1-2
- V6-7
- V12-18

Q3 - Where is his faith in the midst of his struggles? Which do you find resonates with your love for God?

- V3-5
- V9-10

Q4 - What do you notice about David’s prayers to God?

- V11
- V19-21

Q5 - “I will” What is it that David commits to do in response to God’s love?

- V22-25

Q6 - What does David expect to happen as a result?

- V26-28
- V29-31

Q7 - “I will declare your name.” What about God do you long to declare to others? How would you go about it this week?

