

## SMALL GROUP AND SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

# PRACTISING THE WAY



JOURNEY WITH US AS WE EXPLORE THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST IN DAILY LIFE

7 June - 26 July 2026

## HOME GROUPS AND CLASSES GUIDE:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

## Practising the Way

Week 1 — WALKING IS THE WAY

Week 2 — COMMUNAL HARMONY

Week 3 — THE WAY IS COSTLY

Week 4 — BEING AUTHENTIC

Week 5 — WALKING THE WILDERNESS ROAD

Week 6 — STRENGTH FORGED IN STRUGGLE

Week 7 — THE JOURNEY IS UNFOLDING, AND NEVER FIXED

Week 8 — ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD

*Friends, according to our Christian calendar we are moving into 'Ordinary Time'. This refers to the numbered weeks outside of the major liturgical seasons, lasting about 33-34 weeks each year, and focuses on living out the teachings of Christ in daily life. It emphasizes the ongoing mission of the Church, discipleship, and growth in faith rather than commemorating a single event like Christmas or Easter. Ordinary Time in the Christian calendar is often misunderstood as "plain" or "less important", but it's **the season where discipleship is lived out in daily life**. It is about applying faith in everyday life, not just during festive seasons. Ordinary time reminds Christians that faith is not about high holy days but also about consistent practice and witness in daily life. It provides space for teaching, reflection, and mission, grounding believers in the rhythm of ordinary weeks.*

*I have titled our series "**Practising the Way**". Practising the Way means actively following Jesus' way of life, not just believing in Him. Many churches emphasize belief but neglect formation and this leads to the crisis of discipleship, "**Practising the Way**" addresses this gap. **Practising the Way is essentially about intentional discipleship – ordering life around Jesus' teachings and example, within community, to grow in faith and mission.***

*John Mark Comer wrote a book titled "**Practising the Way**" to help believers move beyond simply believing in Jesus to apprenticing under him. Comer argues that everyone is being formed by something – whether culture, media, or habits – and that Christians must intentionally choose to be formed by Jesus. The book begins by*

exploring what it means to be an apprentice to Jesus, drawing on the ancient rabbinic tradition where disciples would follow their teacher closely, imitating not just their words but their way of life. Comer insists that discipleship is not passive belief but active practice, requiring rhythms that open space for God's Spirit to transform us. He frames this apprenticeship around three movements – (e, Become, Do):

- *Being with Jesus* – emphasizes cultivating presence through prayer, silence, scripture, and sabbath. This is about learning to live in constant awareness of God's presence.
- *Becoming like Jesus*: He explains that transformation of character doesn't happen overnight or through sheer willpower alone but through intentional practices – fasting, simplicity, community, and generosity – that reshape desires and habits. These practices are not ends in themselves but means of opening our lives to God's work.
- *And doing as He did*: is about living missionally in the world: serving others, pursuing justice, and sharing the good news in everyday life.

Comer's vision is that discipleship is not reserved for spiritual elites but is the ordinary calling of every believer: to apprentice under Jesus, to be transformed by him, and to live out his way in the world. The book speaks to Christians navigating distraction and hurry, offering concrete steps to integrate faith in ordinary life.

I have chosen the theme 'Practising the Way' to help us see how faith isn't just celebrated in high feasts but embodied in ordinary rhythms. It is about discipleship as a lifestyle rather than a one-time decision. So, Practising the Way is about embodying Jesus' way of life here and now – a radical apprenticeship that reshapes how you spend time, use resources, and relate to others. It is about transformation – not just believing in Jesus but allowing his Spirit to reshape our character so that we increasingly reflect his life. For us, this is a call to slow down, to be present with Jesus, and to let discipleship permeate ordinary routines. To invite believers to see everyday life – work, rest, relationships, service – as the arena where discipleship is lived out. This theme reminds us that discipleship is lived out in the everyday; in how we speak to our families, how we handle work pressures, how we respond to neighbours, and how we steward our time. It is about becoming more Christlike not just in sacred spaces but in the ordinary rhythms of life. Over time, this path produces the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – making believers living witnesses of Jesus in ordinary settings.



**Conclusion:** As we journey through this series, may we discover that practising the Way is not about perfection but about persistence – not about rigid formulas but about unfolding faith – not about escape from the world but about engaging it with Christ's love. It is not a single step but a lifelong road. So, let us go forth with courage, knowing that the wilderness will not defeat us, the struggle will not break us, and the cost will not outweigh the eternal reward. Practising the Way is walking with Christ – and in Him, the journey itself becomes our joy. Enjoy the journey, for it is the Way of Christ.

God's blessings, Zamani Sikupela.

## Week One: 07 June 2026

**Theme:** "Walking is the Way"

**Scriptures:** Psalm 119: 105 - 112; Isaiah 30: 18-26; Galatians 5:16-26 John 14:1-14.

**Worship Song:** "When we walk with the Lord"

Source: YouTube <https://share.google/n7E7h0LCAcoCgd5P2>

Walking is the Way, means that Christian life is not just belief but a lived journey – step by step, in obedience, humility, and reliance on Christ. It means living faith as a journey – guided by God's Word, centred in Christ. Each step is both personal obedience and shared fellowship, making the path itself a witness to God's kingdom. Walking is the Way – not standing still but moving forward in Christ. Each step we take in faith, unity, and love becomes a testimony to the world that God's kingdom is alive among us.

## Reflection on the Scriptures written by: REV ZAMANI SIKUPELA

**God's Word as Light:** The Scriptures consistently teaches that God's Word is a source of light – guiding, illuminating, and protecting us from darkness. *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”*. This image shows Scripture as both immediate guidance (lamp for the next step) and long-term direction (light for the path). These Scriptures show that Walking in God's way means trusting His Word to illuminate each step, even if the whole journey isn't visible. Walking in God's way is not self-directed – it's guided by His Word and Spirit. God's light not only guides but also restores, bringing clarity and renewal to weary travellers. God's word as light means we are never left stumbling in the dark. It is both lamp for today and sunrise for tomorrow – guiding each step while promising ultimate restoration.

**Commitment to Obedience:** The writers urge us to keep God's righteous laws despite suffering. Walking is not passive – it's an intentional choice to align life with God's command. Walking with God requires patience and endurance. And obedience leads to joy, provision, and flourishing. The passages remind us that walking with God - requires commitment, patience and endurance.

**Life Amid Afflictions** - Acknowledge hardship. Life amid afflictions is often marked by suffering, but it can also be a profound journey of resilience, faith, and growth. Every human life encounters afflictions – whether through illness, loss, disappointment, or persecution. Many traditions emphasize that afflictions refine character, strengthen faith, and teach endurance. They are not necessarily punishments but part of the human condition. Yet the writers, especially the psalmist clings to God's Word as the stabilizing force. Walking in God's way doesn't mean avoiding trials but finding strength within them.

**Joy in God's Statutes** – is the delight found in living according to His word, commands, and guidance. Far from being burdensome, His statutes are described in scripture as life-giving, protective, and a source of deep peace. Joy in God's statutes is not about rigid rule-keeping but about discovering the beauty of His wisdom and the freedom of walking in His ways. It is a joy that sustains even in hardship, because His word is unchanging and life-giving. Asking God for strength to live by His statutes transforms them from obligation into delight. Joy in God's statutes means experiencing His healing presence, where obedience leads to restoration.

**Steadfast Heart** - Walking in God's way is lifelong, not seasonal – a steady pilgrimage of faith. These passages show that everything leads to joy, provision, and flourishing. Joy comes from knowing we are not wandering aimlessly – God Himself directs our steps. A steadfast heart is not shaken but anchored in God's promises. A steadfast heart faces suffering with resilience, knowing God is present. Thankfulness keeps the heart focused on God's goodness. A steadfast heart is not hardened but anchored – it beats with faith, courage, and joy even when storms rage. It is the heart that sings in the night, trusts in the unseen, and remains faithful to God's joy.

### Application

In our fast-paced culture, we often want instant answers, however, we are reminded here that waiting is part of God's mercy – He is shaping us while we wait. To us, it means patience is not passive; it's active trust. When facing uncertainty, lean on Scripture for the next step rather than demanding the full map. In affliction, let God's Word anchor your heart and keep you moving forward. To us, this means that even in seasons of confusion or pain, God's truth brings clarity and hope, and His promises assure us of ultimate healing.

Treat obedience as inheritance – a source of joy and identity, not just duty. Choosing God's way leads to joy, peace, and provision, even when it feels costly.

*When you feel stuck, remember that waiting is God's mercy at work*

*When you feel lost, lean on Scripture for the next step, not the whole journey*

*When you feel broken, trust that God's light will bring healing*  
*When obedience feels hard, remember it leads to joy and abundance*  
*When we obey God's Word, we inherit joy that is deeper than circumstances*

### **Life group Questions** (taking discussions deeper):

1. Where have you seen God guiding your steps recently?
2. What obstacles make it difficult for you to walk faithfully, and how do you overcome them?
3. Which practices (prayer, scripture, service) help you stay on the path?

## **Daily Memory Verse and Prayer:**

### **MONDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."*— Psalm 119 119:105

**Prayer:** Lord, guide our steps today through the light of Your Word. Help us to trust Your direction even when the way ahead is unclear.

### **TUESDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"*— Isaiah 30:21

**Prayer:** Father, make our hearts sensitive to Your voice and leading today. Give us wisdom to walk in obedience and peace as You direct our paths.

### **WEDNESDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*— Galatians 5:16

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, lead our thoughts, words, and actions today. Grow in us a deeper desire to live in a way that reflects Christ.

### **THURSDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."*— Galatians 5:22–23

**Prayer:** Lord, let the fruit of Your Spirit grow richly within us today. May our lives bring encouragement, peace, and grace to those around us.

### **FRIDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."*— John 14:1

**Prayer:** Jesus, calm every anxious thought and fill our hearts with Your peace. Help us to trust You fully in every circumstance we face today.

### **SATURDAY**

**Memory Verse:** *"I am the way and the truth and the life."*— John 14:6

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for being our true hope and eternal guide. Keep us close to You and help us walk daily in Your truth and life.

## **Family Devotion: Walking is the Way:** Compiled by: Jenny Blake

**Scriptures:** Psalm 119:105–112, Isaiah 30:18–26, Galatians 5:16–26, John 14:1–14

### **Worship Song (optional)**

A fun song for families and children: **Walking with Jesus (Listener Kids Version) - Kids Bible Song.**

You can also watch it here: [Listener Kids YouTube Video](#)

**Opening Question**

Ask everyone: **“What happens if you stop walking during a race or a journey?”**

(You don’t get anywhere!)

The Christian life is like a walk with Jesus. We don’t just believe in Him - we follow Him step by step every day.

**Short Devotion**

In Psalm 119, the writer says God’s Word is like a lamp for our feet. That means God helps us know where to step next. Jesus also said in John 14 that He is “the way.” Jesus does not only show us the way, but He also walks with us on the journey. Sometimes walking with Jesus is easy. Sometimes it is hard. We may feel tired, sad, angry, or afraid. But God promises to guide us when we listen to Him. Galatians 5 teaches us that when we walk with the Holy Spirit, our lives begin to grow good fruit:

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness

Every small step of obedience matters. Walking is the way!

**Object Lesson (optional fun)**

Ask everyone to stand up.

Say:

- “Take one giant step forward!”
- “Now take one tiny step!”
- “Now walk in slow motion!”

Explain:

Big or small, slow or fast — every step still moves us forward. Following Jesus is the same. Small choices like praying, helping others, telling the truth, and forgiving people are all steps with Jesus.

**Discussion Time****Younger Children (Ages 4–8)**

1. Who helps guide us?
2. What does it mean to walk with Jesus?
3. Name one “fruit of the Spirit.”
4. What is one good step you can take this week?

**Older Children & Teens**

1. Why do you think Jesus called Himself “the way”?
2. What can distract us from walking with God?
3. Which fruit of the Spirit is hardest for you?
4. How can our everyday choices show others Jesus?

**Family Activity****Make a “Faith Path”!**

Use paper footprints and write one way your family can walk with Jesus this week on each footprint:

- Pray together
- Help someone
- Read the Bible
- Encourage a friend
- Forgive quickly

Place the footprints on the floor leading through the house.

**Closing Prayer** Jesus, thank You for walking with us every day. Help us follow Your way with love, joy, and obedience. Guide every step we take this week so others can see Your light in us. Amen.