

SMALL GROUP AND SUNDAY SERMON SERIES



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 Seven: 19 July 2026

Theme: "The journey is unfolding, and never fixed"

Scriptures: Proverbs 3: 5-9; Philippians 3: 8-16; John 16:29-33

Worship Song: Way Maker – Sinach

Link to the song: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Way+Maker+Sinach

The Bible shows that the journey of faith is never fixed but always unfolding. It is a living road, sometimes wilderness, sometimes promise – where God calls us to trust Him for the next step, not cling to a rigid plan. Practising the Way is a living journey – unfolding with each step, never fixed, always transforming us into Christ's likeness. The Way is steady yet unfolding, rooted yet growing, never rigid but always alive.

Reflection on Scriptures written by: BIBLEWOMAN – TAMARA BOOI

The Christian journey is not a straight line with every detail mapped out before us. It is a life of continual trust, growth, and transformation. God rarely reveals the entire road ahead; instead, He invites us to take the next faithful step. Proverbs 3 reminds us that wisdom begins by trusting the Lord with all our hearts rather than depending on our own understanding. We often want certainty before obedience, but God calls us to obedience before certainty. Faith is not about having all the answers - it is about knowing the One who leads us.

Paul's testimony in Philippians 3 deepens this understanding. Although he had every reason to boast in his achievements, he counted everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. Even after years of ministry and spiritual maturity, Paul did not claim to have *"arrived."* Instead, he continued pressing forward, forgetting what lay behind and reaching toward what God still had for him. This reminds us that discipleship is never static. There is always another lesson to learn, another area where Christ shapes our character, another invitation to become more like Him. The journey of faith is marked by continual surrender rather than spiritual complacency.

Jesus offers both realism and hope in John 16. He never promised His disciples an easy journey; He promised that trouble would come. Yet His final word was not fear but peace: *"Take heart! I have overcome the world."* Our confidence is not found in favourable circumstances but in the victory of Christ. Even when the path seems uncertain, painful, or confusing, we walk with the One who has already gone before us and secured the final victory.

Practicing the Way means embracing this unfolding journey with open hands. We grow through seasons of joy and seasons of wilderness. We mature through unanswered questions as much as through answered prayers. Every experience becomes an opportunity for God to shape us into the likeness of Christ. The journey is never fixed because God is continually forming His people for His purposes.

As we walk this road together, may we resist the temptation to cling to our own plans and instead trust God's leading day by day. The destination is not merely success or comfort - it is Christ Himself. Every step taken in faith draws us deeper into His presence, transforms our hearts, and equips us to reflect His love in an ever-changing world.

Life group Questions

1. Proverbs 3 calls us to trust God rather than our own understanding. What area of your life currently requires you to trust God without having all the answers, and what makes that difficult?
2. Paul says he is still "pressing on" toward Christ (Philippians 3). What is one habit, attitude, or experience that you need to leave behind so that you can continue growing as a disciple of Jesus? Jesus promises both trouble and peace (John 16:33). How can our Life Group practically encourage one another to experience Christ's peace while walking through life's uncertainties?

Daily Memory Verse and Prayer:

MONDAY

Memory Verse: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*
— Proverbs 3:5

Prayer: Lord, teach us to trust You fully even when we do not understand the path ahead. Help us rely on Your wisdom and guidance in every decision we make today.

TUESDAY

Memory Verse: *"In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."* — Proverbs 3:6

Prayer: Father, we surrender our plans and desires to You today. Lead us clearly and help us walk faithfully in the direction You have prepared for us.

WEDNESDAY

Memory Verse: *"I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* — Philippians 3:8

Prayer: Jesus, help us value our relationship with You above every earthly pursuit. Deepen our love for You and keep our hearts cantered on what truly matters.

THURSDAY

Memory Verse: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal."* — Philippians 3:13–14

Prayer: Lord, help us leave behind regret, fear, and distraction as we move forward in faith. Strengthen us to persevere with hope and purpose in the calling You have given us.

FRIDAY

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* — John 16:33

Prayer: Father, when trials come, remind us that Christ has already won the victory. Fill us with courage, peace, and confidence in Your overcoming power.

SATURDAY

Memory Verse: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace."* — John 16:33

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for the peace that comes from abiding in You. Calm our anxious hearts and help us rest securely in Your presence today.

Family Devotion: Remain Flexible Compiled by: Magogodi Nkuna – Volunteer

Opening song: Make a way - Mmatema (Spirit of Praise) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thWiknbZ5DM>

Read: Proverbs 16:9 *"A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."* Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

We often carry this heavy burden of feeling like we must be in control of every single aspect of our lives. From the intense pressure in Grade 9 to pick the "perfect" subjects, to the stress of choosing the right degree or diploma to study after Grade 12. We swallow all this pressure believing that if we can just map out the path flawlessly, we can somehow guarantee ourselves a good future.

But you don't have to live this way. Look, it is a good thing to have big dreams and solid plans. Structure and preparation matter. But you should not hold your plans so tightly that you break when things shift or lose your peace when things don't go your way. Proverbs 16:9 says that you are responsible for your plans, but God is responsible for your path. That means you can move forward without fear. You can act thoughtfully while holding your plans loosely. You can take steps without needing guarantees. Let your life unfold, do your part, and trust God in the process.

Reflections:**Tweens:**

1. Think of a time when plans changed suddenly. What was one good thing that came out of it anyway?
2. When you feel worried about the future, what is one small, positive thing you can focus on today?

Teens:

1. What is one goal or expectation you are holding onto so tightly that it is stealing your peace?
2. Looking back at a recent setback or disappointment, how did that detour actually help you grow?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that my future is secure in your hands. Lead me to the path You have chosen and give me the peace to take one step at a time with open hands. Amen