

CITY CHURCH DNA DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 7

DNA Day 37 - The gospel for you part 1

Over the past six weeks, we've explored what the values of grace, team and God's Word mean for us, our friends and family, our workplaces, our church, our city and the wider world. For the next two weeks, we'll be focusing on **the gospel**.

As Christians we face two dangers: we either drift towards disobedience, or we drift towards legalism.

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul warns against the latter. He reminds them that we "put no confidence in the flesh", but rather we "boast in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3). Christ did not come as a philosopher, a teacher or a general. He did not come with a code of ethics, or a list of rules. He came as a Saviour to rescue us.

This is gospel in a nutshell: **God saves sinners**. Elsewhere, Paul summarises the gospel like this:

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **1 Timothy 1:15.***

We must never forget that without Christ, we were utterly helpless in our sin. We were on the path of destruction. We were condemned to face the wrath of God.

Now, we live in the light of the truth that Christ has saved us. We press on, not in our own strength, but actively resting in Him and His finished work on the cross. We put our confidence in Him. He does not rescue us and leave us, but stays with us. By His Spirit, He is continuing to perfect us, giving us all we need to live lives that bring Him glory.

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for Your love and mercy toward us. Help us put all our confidence in You and what You have done for us.

DNA Day 38 - The gospel for you part 2

The gospel is good news.

And how do you communicate news? You announce it!

As God's people, our purpose and calling is simple: to announce the good news. To tell people of the salvation found only in Jesus.

It is wonderfully simple. We don't need a degree. We don't need training. We don't need to be a philosopher or wise teacher. We already have Christ Jesus. And each one of us can tell others about Him.

Paul, the master theologian, knows the gospel is not complicated. That's why he tells the Corinthians:

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **1 Corinthians 2:2.***

With Spirit-given courage to communicate the simple yet profound message of the gospel, we can see lives changed by the hope and love we have found in Christ Jesus. This is a hope and love our world so desperately needs.

Pray

Father God, thank you that the gospel is simple and good. Thank you that each one of us has the privilege to share it with those around us. Give us courage and boldness to do that.

DNA Day 39 - The gospel for your family

A loving and stable family unit is a place where we can flourish and thrive.

Sadly, for so many people, that is not their experience. Family is a place of tension, of strife, even of abuse. It's a story we tragically repeated time and time again: husband seeking to dominate wife, parents hurting children, wider family in conflict with each other. At worst, experiences of trauma can have a life long and even inter-generational impact.

But the gospel gives us hope that this is not the final word.

The gospel story is not one of coercion and control. Christ does not win us by force or dominate us. He woos us with His tender kindness. He places us in a family defined not by biology, but by His love and grace.

*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. **John 19: 25-27.***

The gospel shapes how we interact with each other as parents to children, as siblings, as grandparents, aunts, uncles. We can model Christ to each other. As we do so we will flourish.

And we can draw others into our families. Those who have experienced pain in their family can experience healing in ours. May we extend to others the same love that we have received from Christ.

Pray

Father God, we recognise that there are broken families all around us. Help us model what a gospel family looks like to the world. Help us draw others who are hurting into our families where they can experience Your love and peace.

DNA Day 40 – The gospel for your friends

The Bible contains many stories and examples of friendship. From Jonathan and David to the Apostle Paul's friendships with Barnabas, Titus, Silas, Luke, Priscilla, Aquilla...

But the greatest story is of Christ's friendship with us.

Christ came as a baby. A human baby is utterly helpless. He cannot feed himself, clean himself, even get himself to sleep without help. Yet that is who the King of Heaven became. He became completely reliant on His parents to do everything for Him. He was vulnerable.

And He carried that on until the very end. At his most anxious, He leaned on His closest friends, His disciples, in prayer:

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' And he took with him Peter and James and John and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.' **Mark 14:32–34.**

His vulnerability is a model for our friendships.

A gospel-shaped church should be a place where people feel they can be vulnerable with each other. Where they can reveal themselves: their true selves, not some Instagram filtered alternate reality. Where people can share their weaknesses, their fears, their anxieties together in the eternally comforting presence of our greatest friend, Christ Jesus.

Pray

King Jesus, thank you that You made yourself vulnerable for us. Help us to be vulnerable with each other so that we can have true, authentic friendships that reveal your love for us.

DNA Day 41 - The gospel for your workplace part 1

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul outlines what it means to work in a way that is shaped by the gospel:

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. **Colossians 3:23–24.***

Paul here is actually writing to slaves. This does not mean he condones slavery. On the contrary, he treats them with dignity, appealing to them as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

He instructs them to do their work with all their heart, not begrudgingly. Why? Because of who they are serving.

The same verses are applicable for us. Our identity is in Christ Jesus, not in our job role or title. We don't seek promotions or pay rises for our own glory. We don't cut corners or treat customers or fellow workers badly. We don't grumble against our boss.

We do work quietly, humbly, diligently for Christ, knowing that whatever earthly rewards come our way pale in comparison to the riches we have inherited in Christ, the fullness of which we will experience in eternity.

Pray

Christ Jesus, thank you that we can rest secure in You, and that we are not defined by our successes or failures at work. Help us work hard for You.

DNA Day 42 - The gospel for your workplace part 2

It's worth noting that work is not just paid employment—certainly not as we think of it in the 21st century western world.

In fact, work for most of human history has primarily not been about getting money. Instead, it's meant working the land, growing crops and raising animals to feed your family.

That is far from glamorous.

And yet, in the gospel there is a connection between our work and God's work. Consider the words of the Psalmist:

*May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children. May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. **Psalm 90: 16–17.***

There is an inherent beauty in God's work, which is revealed in us as we work for His glory.

That is a high purpose for our work—whatever it is! Cleaning shops, looking after the children, going to school, sitting at a desk—our calling is to work to His glory. As we do so, God's love and power and wonder will be displayed to us and to the people around us.

Pray

Father, show Your love to us as we work. And as we do so, reveal Your love to the people we work with.