

# Series Title: 'Living the life'

## Subtitle: 'The Wheel Illustration'

**Primary Aim:** This series will help us wrestle with some of the foundation issues related to living out a life as a Christian. Our programme follows the pattern laid out in the Wheel Illustration produced by the Navigators. In this illustration the hub is Christ, the rim of the wheel is Obedience and then there are four spokes: Bible, Prayer, Witnessing and Fellowship. The idea is that if the spokes are out of balance the movement of the whole wheel becomes more challenging or even impossible. All are required in order to give steady and consistent motion.

### 1. Christ at the Centre – The Hub

**Passages:** 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20 (Alternate Revelation 2:1-7, Psalm 27, Hebrews 12:1-3, Haggai 1:4-7, 2 Kings 23)

**Blurb:** This session is the introduction session for all elements of the wheel illustration. We will focus in on these two passages which both help us see the importance of having Jesus at the centre of our lives. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul makes clear that when we come to know Jesus the old has gone and the new has come. Part of this newness is putting Jesus firmly on the throne of our lives. In Galatians 2:20 Paul makes clear that he no longer lives but Christ lives in Him through faith.

### 2. Obedience to Christ – The Rim

**Passages:** Romans 12:1, John 14:21, Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 119:9-11, 36-37

**Blurb:** This session seeks to help us to set our hearts and minds on Christ (Colossians 3:1-3) and begin to see Obedience as the natural outworking of understanding our identity (Colossians 3:4-17). The verses in Romans 12:1-2 help us see the challenge of obedience which either leads to transformation or being conformed to the pattern of the world around us. John 14:21 are both strong on Obedience being the proof Christ's Lordship in our lives and our response being motivated by love. We will also discuss the tension between our discipline and dependence (Psalm 119:9-11, 36-37)

### 3. The Word of God – Relating to God (Part 1)

**Passages:** 2 Timothy 3:16, Joshua 1:8

**Blurb:** This is the first of two sessions focused on the vertical spokes! This Bible is something most of us are very familiar but this session is about how it helps us to relate to God (Part 1). We begin with some context about what the Bible is, how it describes itself (metaphors), the way that it came about, how we know it is reliable and what we mean by saying it was inspired. 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8 help us wrestle a little with the purpose of the Bible and how it can equip us for service. We finish with the Word Hand Illustration and a brief Lectio Divina exercise to help us engage with God through an example passage.

### 4. Prayer – Relating to God (Part 2)

**Passages:** John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7

**Blurb:** Just as the Bible is God's *primary* means of speaking to us so prayer is God's primary means for us to respond to Him. In the Bible we have a number of significant prayers (e.g. from Jesus, Moses, Daniel and Paul) which are a huge encouragement for us to pray big prayers. Philippians 4:6-7 helps us see how God meets us in prayer and helps us get perspective on our anxiety and begin to guard our hearts and minds in Christ. Jesus Himself encouraged us to ask in His name (praying in line with His purpose and will) and promised that when we do so we will be given what we ask for.

### 5. Fellowship – Loving the Body of Christ

**Passages:** Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:24-25

**Blurb:** This is the first of two sessions focused on our horizontal relationships with the people living, working and doing life with us. Here we concentrate on the body of Christ, a metaphor that Paul uses (esp. 1 Cor 12) to describe the people of God. The writer to the Hebrews encourages us not to give up the habit of meeting together so that we can spur one another on to love and good deeds. Similarly Jesus encourages us about the power of meeting together when he says that 'where two or three are gathered there I am with them.' Authentic community is hugely powerful both for those in and out of the Body of Christ.

### 6. Witnessing – Relating to the Lost

**Passages:** Matthew 4:19, Romans 1:16

**Blurb:** This session introduces the notion of sharing our faith with those around us who do not know Jesus. Matthew 4:19 is a great example of this as Jesus calls the disciples to follow Him and He will send them out to 'fish for people'. In Romans 1:16 Paul declares that he is 'not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God that brings salvation to all who believe'. This session will help us think practically about how to grow in confidence about share our faith and begin to take the opportunities that God provides us with day by day.