

This discussion guide is designed to help small groups navigate the twelve episodes of the Australian Christian documentary series, Faith Runs Deep.

This series unearths remarkable stories of faith from Australia's history and today of people who have been impacted by Jesus and have gone on to influence this country in fields such as sport, arts, business, social services and many more.

Each study includes Bible passages to provide biblical teaching on the topics raised in each episode plus questions for discussion, private reflection and action.



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**faith
runs
deep**

**...unearthing stories of
faith in Australia**



discussion guide

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**PREPARED BY
karen morris**

**12 SESSIONS BASED ON THE
AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY SERIES**



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for the group leader

This series explores the nature of Christian faith and its different expressions in Australia. It delves into the culture of Australia, from the First Nations people, through the history of white settlement and immigration to the present. Each episode has a connected discussion guide with the aim of helping your group engage with the content, read the Bible, and share honestly your personal thoughts, reflections, and experiences.

If your group members have access to the Faith Runs Deep episodes before group time (either via the Olive Tree Media Watch+ Platform or on DVD), they could watch the episode and complete the questions in their own time, and come to the group ready to discuss. If the group members don't have individual access to the episodes, we suggest you discuss the **Introduction** questions prior to watching the video, then play the episode and then work through the **Discussion** questions in your group time.

You might like to consider sharing the cost of a Small Group access (up to 24 users) to the Watch+ platform for the duration of the study.

Not all the **Discussion** questions need to be answered. Choose the relevant ones for your group in the time available.

After the discussion there are personal **Reflection** questions to prompt thought and prayer, as well as questions that will encourage your group to concrete **Action**. It is optional whether you choose to share the Reflection and Action responses in group time but sharing within the safety of a small group does increase accountability to follow through.

Remember to allow time to pray either as the leader or as a group.

1.

faith runs deep

INTRODUCTION

1. What impact have you seen of Christianity in Australia? Has it been positive or negative, or both?

2. What legacy do you think is most valuable?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

NOTE: This discussion chapter is shorter to allow time for the group to tell their story of faith.

3. What has been your experience of faith? Do you have a story of how faith has impacted you and your history for good or otherwise? Explain it briefly to the group.

4. What surprised you in the episode? Who was the person you resonated with most? Why? Share this with the group.

5. The teacher in Ecclesiastes 3:9 asks the question, 'What do workers gain from their toil?' And the answer is surprising.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:10-14

Try to paraphrase the verses into 'Australian English', recording your 'translation' below. Take the familiar Bible language and make it understandable to a person on the street. As you do this, you will be wrestling with the meaning of each phrase.

a) Do you agree with the teacher? Where do you disagree?

b) What do you think is the burden of humanity?

c) What does it mean that He 'has set eternity in the human heart'?

6. Anne Pattel-Gray mentioned that God was present in Australia for thousands of years before white settlement. What evidence is there of that? How do you understand First Nations' faith before the arrival of Christians?

7. Colin Buchanan mentions the tree rotting at its base and wonders if Australian culture could go the same way. What do you think?

REFLECTION

Tim Kirk talks personally about his faith: 'That's the consequence of meeting Jesus. You want to do what He did. You want to be His instrument in the world... desire to pass on what you've been given. The overwhelming sense of goodness and love flowing from the heart of Christ.'

Have you met Jesus? Do you know how that happens? Ask someone from the group if you don't or talk with your pastor.

If you are Christian: Do you know the 'sense of goodness and love

flowing from the heart of Christ'? How have you been His instrument in the world? Pray about the opportunities you have to be His instrument. Tell God about the times you've failed to take the opportunities.

ACTION

What important idea have you learnt watching this episode? Who will you tell? Share this with the group and hold each other accountable.

This week, jot down values, characteristics, institutions etc in Australian culture that you think might have been shaped by Christianity.

2.

the ends of the earth

INTRODUCTION

The Colonial years of Australian settlement were all about convicts and their punishment. Thousands of convicts and their jailers arrived in this country with nowhere to live, nothing to eat and faced terrible isolation.

1. What could possibly be good about this situation?

2. What do you think and feel about the punishment of 'transportation to Australia?'

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20

These were the last words Matthew records Jesus having with His disciples; to take the message of Jesus' life, death and resurrection to 'the ends of the earth.'

a) Imagine the disciples' response to what Jesus said. At that point, realistically, do you think that was ever going to happen? Why or why not?

b) Christianity is now the largest (by number) faith in the world and is truly global. Jesus' words have been fulfilled. Why do you think this occurred?

c) Richard Johnson boarded The First Fleet with these words of Jesus on his mind. Do you think he was successful in his role?

d) How does it change your perception of the early years of Australia considering that these verses were the motivation of people like Richard Johnson and Samuel Marsden?

4. Bindi describes calling out 'Help me Jesus' and then being arrested and imprisoned. To us, that doesn't seem to be an answer to her prayer, and yet she was very positive about it.

In the New Testament, Peter writes to believers who are spread around the known world, and genuinely struggling.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

In this passage there's an apparent contradiction: the Christians are both 'shielded by God's power' (v5) and 'suffer(ing) grief in all kinds of trials' (v6).

a) How do you resolve this from the passage? For Bindi, which one is it - 'shielded' or 'suffering'? What is the main idea in the Bible passage?

b) Have you had an experience where your suffering has refined your faith? What changed in your faith as a result of this suffering? If you are willing to share, briefly describe how this worked.

6. Towards the end of the episode Bindi Cole Chocka states, 'No matter how secular this country becomes, no matter what philosophy and ideologies we take on board, faith is always going to be at the heart of this country.' Do you agree? Why? Why not? What worries you about the trajectory of our country? What reassures you?

REFLECTION

Karl mentions a lesson from a jar filled with rocks, gravel, sand, and water. Some people understood this to mean 'You can always fit more in.' But the real lesson in the analogy was 'if you don't get the rocks in first, they won't get in.'

For Karl, the 'rocks' are time with God, keeping fit and spending time with his wife and family.

List the 'rocks' in your life. Which ones are well placed and going strong? Which ones need to be rearranged so they fit better? Which ones are not actually in the jar? What steps can you take to fit those important things in the jar? Pray about this, and then do it!

ACTION

What are the ways you fulfil the challenge Jesus puts before us in Matthew 28:18-20?

What initiatives could be started in your local community?

What small concrete changes will you make in your life to serve the least, the last and the lost?

3.

second chance

INTRODUCTION

The convict history of Australia seems to be mixed when it comes to Christian faith and its impact.

1. What positive stories do you know about the early settlement and faith?

2. What negative stories do you know?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie were counter-cultural in their day. They believed that convicts who had finished their sentence were no longer of the 'criminal class' but people who could be forgiven, restored, and given a fair go. To understand why, we need to understand the Jesus they trusted in.

Read Luke 7:36-50

In this passage Jesus has an interaction with a Pharisee who thought that people could never be given a second chance.

a) Put yourself in the place of all the different characters (Simon, the guests, the woman, and Jesus) in the story. What do they think and feel? Why?

b) What does this interaction reveal about Jesus?

c) Which person do you most identify with? Why?

4. Mary Reibey came to Australia as a convict in 1790. She was freed in 1794 and widowed with seven children in 1811. She represents the many emancipists who were granted their freedom by Macquarie. She lived a life of generosity driven by her faith and values. Her life was completely changed by Lachlan Macquarie.

As Christians we are saved by an even greater act. Macquarie legislated to free convicts. Jesus died and rose again to free us.

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Avoiding Christian jargon (eg use words like 'concentrate on', rather than 'set your mind on'), develop two lists:

a) List the *actions* that should be the consequence of a life of following Jesus.

b) List the *attitudes* that should flow from a life of following Jesus.

c) What is notable in these lists? What surprises you?

REFLECTION

Jane speaks of her father as a man whose faith was not personal until he committed his life to Jesus later in life. He was deeply involved in the church and yet didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? When did that moment occur? Thank God for that moment and the people involved in bringing you to faith! Pray for those you know and love who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, do you know how to start one? Ask the leader of your group or talk to your pastor.

ACTION

Consider a time you were given a second chance. What was it like? How did it impact you?

Are there people in your life who deserve a second chance, from you or others?

How does this episode help you consider offering others that second chance?

What could you do this week to show that to someone?

4.

eternity in our hearts

INTRODUCTION

Australia's history is complex and contentious. In this episode, Karl says, 'The history of the treatment of the Indigenous people of this land is an awful story...' and yet, there is so much we don't know, that we've never been taught.

1. Discuss what you know of the history of early colonisation in Australia?

2. How do you feel about our country's history? And how it has been portrayed?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. Anne Pattel-Gray says that reconciliation can only be achieved 'through education, history, wars and all...it belongs to both of us! We have been transformed through Jesus Christ...I can't understand why we aren't at the forefront of this conversation.'

Do you agree? Why/why not?

4. Read Romans 12:9-17

Paul outlines how a transformed heart, shaped by God through the death of Jesus, is expressed in the life of a believer.

a) List the characteristics of a transformed heart, and the actions that flow out of it.

CHARACTERISTICS

ACTIONS



b) What do you personally find most difficult in these 2 lists? Why?

5. Read Ephesians 2:11-22

Paul talks about the deep, generational conflict between the Gentiles and the Jews in his era. Now that the two groups have been 'reconciled

to God through the Cross,' he is clear that they are also to be reconciled to each other.

a) What similarities can you see in our Australian situation?

b) What implications are there for Christians as we approach our national need for reconciliation between First Nations people and 'white' Australia?

c) What particular *attitudes* do you think Christians should display?

d) What particular *roles* do you think Christians should play?

6. Peter Gibbs describes his initial reaction to the death of his sister in custody, and how his family averted riots in Brewarrina.

a) As you watched, what emotions were stirred for you? Why?

b) Peter and his family achieved a remarkable outcome. Based on the passages above what attitudes and actions might have been needed to achieve this?

REFLECTION

Think of a current conflict you are experiencing, inside or outside the Christian community. Return to the list based on Romans 12:9-17, write down the changes you need to make to move forward. Be concrete: not 'I should love that person more', but 'I will speak in a kind, respectful way to (name)'.

Pray about these changes and how you will do them.

ACTION

Given that 58% of First Nations people claim Christianity, how can you connect with these brothers and sister in Christ? Do you know your local Indigenous churches?

As a group list the ways you can explore being part of the reconciliation conversation. Analyse your list: are they personal interactions, church connections, corporate/business activities, or political involvement?

Choose one (or more) of these to act on.

5.

melting pot

INTRODUCTION

The Australian story of immigration is a success and a tragedy at the same time. With the exception of the First Nations people, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Karl addresses the issue of faith and immigration within the Australian community by telling his own story and connecting it to Tony's story. He says: 'Immigration has made our country, but faith still runs deep.'

1. Do you agree? How has immigration made our country? What are the ups and downs of immigration for Australia?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

2. Do you have a personal story of immigration? What was the experience of your family, your relatives or friends?

3. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7

When the people of Israel were carried off into exile because of their rebellion against God, this is what Jeremiah the prophet told the people.

a) If you are a recent addition to the 'melting pot' that is Australia, what does the passage in Jeremiah prompt you to do for your community, your city, your country? How exactly would you do this?

b) If you are well established in Australia, maybe your faith brings other demands. What are they?

4. Read Genesis 12:1-3

This is the story of God calling Abram (who later is named Abraham) to leave home and head to a new land. God's promise to Abram is that 'all the families of the earth will be blessed' through his descendants. This was the beginning of the Jewish nation. At the other end of the Bible in Revelations 7 (we will look at this passage in episode 11) we read of a vision where all nations are present before God at the end of time. God's plan has always been to bless all people and all nations.

a) What do these verses tell you about God's heart for all nations and cultures?

b) A major challenge for the first Christians was to recognise that God had planned all along to bless all nations, not just the Jewish people. Are there nations that you struggle to accept that God will bless? How do you see God's plan unfolding today?

5. Read Colossians 1:21-23

What is the most significant aspect of being reconciled to God for you? Is it comfort, confidence, joy, rest from striving, reduced anxiety, purposefulness or something else? Pray, thanking God for this gift.

REFLECTION

Bring to mind people around you from different cultures to your own. Be honest with yourself about your prejudices or stereotypes of 'those people'. Be still for a moment, be truthful with yourself!

Where do you fall into sinful ways of thinking about others? Seeing them as whole groups, as if all people from that group are the same.

Here is a prayer you might like to pray: 'Help me Lord to love each person you bring into my life just as you love me; and help me to see people groups as you see them, needing your care, mercy and gentleness. Amen.'

ACTION

Where are the immigrants, asylum seekers or refugees in your community from? How could you find out how to help them? What concrete action will you take to welcome and help them?

Tony was probably the 'man least likely to become a Christian'. Paul, the Apostle, was considered the same. Who is the person in your life 'least likely' to become a Christian? Pray for them and consider connecting or reconnecting with them.

6.

that other religion

Australia is a sports-mad country with almost religious fervour. We are faithful followers of our teams and our sporting heroes, and outspoken in our support of a particular code. But we are also vocal about our competitors, dismissive of other sports and willing to sledge if it means winning. Karl states, 'Winning doesn't deliver everything you need, you need religion as well.'

1. What is it about winning that is both satisfying and unsatisfying at the same time?

2. Why do people need faith as well?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. What does sport provide to people beyond physical health?

4. Which person did you connect with most in the video? What drove them in their sporting life? What broke them in their sporting life?

5. What drives you in your life? What breaks or has broken you in your life?

6. Read Philippians 3:12-14

Paul is writing to the church in Philippi and uses sporting and athletic imagery to describe the Christian life.

a) What is Paul striving after? Read the verses that precede this passage to discover what Paul is striving for (v8—11).

b) Why do you think Paul wants us to “strain” in a life of faith?

c) Many see faith and spirituality as contemplative, quiet and serene, yet Paul here gives a very active image of a Christian life. Can both these views co-exist?

7. Idolatry is mistakenly understood as worshipping statues or human-made objects. But the Bible makes it clear that idolatry is allowing something other than God to control your life, to dictate your decisions. Or to put it another way, it's putting something else in God's place of authority.

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul has a long discussion about whether Christians should eat meat offered to idols. His conclusion (v31) is 'So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.'

Read 1 Corinthians 10:27-11:1

a) What principles can you discover about idolatry?

b) How might these principles apply to worshipping sport, or any other activity?

c) How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection for our sin connect with the problem of idolatry?

REFLECTION

In the 21st century we don't tend to worship things but rather desires. People can desire comfort, control, power, affection, authority, respect, independence, achievement and many other things. All these things are good...until they take the place of God!

Take some time to consider the following questions:

Which desires in your life could take (or are taking) the place of God?

What do you do to achieve the fulfilment of that desire?

What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve that desire?

Pray and confess this to God.

ACTION

If you decided there were things in your life that you idolise, work out what will be your first steps to loosening the hold this has on your life. Write these down and share with someone who will hold you accountable. Tell the group who you plan to share these things with (not necessarily what you will share with them).

Do you have connections with people in sport? How would you explore the satisfying/unsatisfying nature of winning and connect that to the Gospel?

7.

my brother's keeper

Even in Australia, part of the wealthy west, there are many groups of people who are disadvantaged. In this episode Karl explores the idea that Christian faith means worshipping Christ by 'serving the least, the last, the lost'.

1. What groups of disadvantaged people do you see in your community?

2. What types of disadvantage exist in your community? Remember that some may be hidden.

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. This episode highlights stories of people who have worked to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

Which person in this episode made an impression on you? What impacted you about the way they lived their life for Christ?

4. Andrew Fisher says to prisoners, 'I have a competitive advantage in life because of my faith.'

a) Besides the essential gift of salvation in Christ, list the advantages and benefits that having faith brings. Think deeply, and broadly.

b) Which of these is important to you personally? Why?

5. Read Matthew 25:31-43

Jesus told a story about a time in the future when He will sit on His throne and all the nations will be gathered before Him. He commended His followers for the way they loved the stranger, in particular the Christian stranger.

a) List the ways the righteous loved the stranger.

b) Think of a 21st century person who has shown love to others in each of those ways.

If you've been an outsider or an alien and been welcomed, you will understand how amazing it feels. But even if you haven't, you've been welcomed by God because of Jesus' death for you.

6. Bernadette Black mentions that she is trying to create 'off ramps to disadvantage' for those experiencing teen pregnancy and teen parents. Her motivation 'is to show the love of Christ to whomever I'm sitting with. God's job is to be able to use that love.'

What are ways you can show the love of Christ to people around you?

REFLECTION

Andrew Fisher says: 'It's up to you to make your life count for something!' Culturally, this often means becoming the next billionaire, but he isn't talking about success. What does it mean to you to make your life as a Christian count for something? What work can you do that no-one else will?

How can you show God's love to a particular person in your life?

If your group or church are participating in a Faith Runs Deep Church Campaign and this is your last week, take time to consider if you have a personal relationship with Jesus. If you'd like to, or if you'd just like to find out more, talk to your group leader or pastor.

ACTION

John Flynn's idea of the Royal Flying Doctor Service grew out of his heart to serve God. What ideas do you have for relieving the disadvantage of others (individually or corporately)?

What would be a first step to achieve this?

What is driving you? What is holding you back?

8.

for love of country

INTRODUCTION

In this episode Karl interviews people from the defence forces and asks why they do what they do. He says: 'Sacrifice never goes out of fashion, we honour and we celebrate sacrifice.'

1. Where does this ring true in Australia and where is self-sacrifice considered inappropriate?

2. What makes the difference?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. The defence forces are described as a 'pressure cooker environment'. Tim Booker suggests that high intensity, dangerous situations lead to deep conversations.

a) What are the pressure cooker situations you (or your friends) find yourself in? (Natural disasters, sickness, marriage breakdowns, redundancy, pandemics, conflicts, bullying...)

b) What are your 'unhelpful natural first responses'?

4. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

Peter wrote this to Christians under pressure. Describe possible godly responses to your specific situations.

5. Now read v18

How does Jesus' sacrifice connect with the passage that goes before?
How does this passage change your view of your suffering?

6. Read Philippians 1:12-14

Paul describes his situation (being imprisoned) and his response. Why does he respond this way? What drives him? What situations are similar for you?

7. Return to your pressure cooker situations from Q3a) and choose one.

a) What are the underlying issues that are exposed by the situation?

b) Describe the issues that are most prominent for people in this situation?

c) Are there opportunities to explain or live the Gospel?

Pray about the situations you and others find yourselves in. Pray about the suffering and the opportunities that arise from this or these situation/s.

REFLECTION

In the video Jane describes her period of discontent, 'I wanted a life less ordinary!...What if I've been given this life-changing truth?...What if I took this seriously?'

Describe your spiritual life currently. What are your reflections? What are you doing about any issues?

ACTION

Jane also says that: 'A life that glorifies God is not difficult or complicated, but it takes little intentional steps.'

What little intentional steps will you include in your daily life that will help you live a life that glorifies God?

What ways could you serve someone sacrificially?

Do you have anyone from the defence forces or their families in your community? In what ways could you connect with them? In what ways could you support them?

9.

grassroots

INTRODUCTION

Politics is dominated by people's worldviews and values, sometimes creating much conflict.

1. What values are most important to you? Share in the group if you feel comfortable.

2. What values do you believe are most important for a positive society?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. Guy Barnett says, 'We all come to the table with a personal belief system, you bring that to the table, you bring that to the parliament.'

Read Daniel 2

This chapter is in essence a tussle between two world views. This situation is not unlike the one which we find ourselves in.

a) List the different aspects of 'world view' for Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel from the text.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

DANIEL



b) What key ideas influence your view of God, humanity, the world and how it functions?

4. Amanda Stoker mentions Section 116 of the Constitution describing it as, 'a separation between church and state: a wall of protection for the church *from* the state!'

a) What is your opinion of this separation?

b) How does this change your view of the commonly held belief that faith has no place in parliament?

5. Read 1 Peter 2:12-17

Peter writes to the believers suffering in the 1st century. In this passage he outlines how they should live in private and public.

a) List all the instructions he gives. Which ones do you find hardest?

b) What is it that challenges you? What do you need to change?

REFLECTION

Reflect on your recent thoughts or discussions about politics, politicians and/or government. How has your faith impacted your views and the way you express them?

Are there attitudes, actions and/or words that were not reflecting your faith in Jesus? Spend some time praying for our politicians and repenting of attitudes, actions or words that were not honouring Jesus.

ACTION

Do you know anyone (Christian or non-Christian) who works in the political sphere? What is a concrete way you can support them personally? Can you contact them? If so, what would you say to them? How can you pray for them?

What is one world, national, state, or local issue that has been on your mind lately? How can you pray for change in this situation? How might you personally get involved in rectifying this issue?

10.

for the glory of God

INTRODUCTION

This session explores the idea that art and culture reflect the creativity of God, expressed by humans.

1. Karl says that creativity is an important part of our culture. What do you think?

2. Are you creative? What are you passionate about?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. In the video, which creative person most interested you? What was appealing, interesting or intriguing about them and their work?

4. Colin Buchanan's song has the lyric 'Jesus has His fingerprints on everything that's good.'

a) When you look at the world, creativity, art, music and imagination, do you see the fingerprints of Jesus on it? What points you to God?

b) What particular creative endeavour is most interesting or attractive for you?

5. Colin Buchanan describes beginning to write music and thinking, 'Surely anyone can write a song.' Obviously this is not the case! God has clearly gifted Colin in a special way because not everybody can write songs. The Bible says that God has gifted each one of us, but sometimes it's hard to determine what that gift might be.

a) Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Paul says the gifts of the Spirit are given for the common good. Write a list of all the gifts from the Spirit mentioned here.

b) Read Exodus 35:30-35. Moses describes two men that have been gifted by the Holy Spirit. Write a list of all the gifts from the Spirit mentioned here.

c) Which gifts surprise you from these lists? What enthuses you?

d) Which of these gifts do you feel God may have given to someone in your group? Are there other gifts that you think God has given to people in your group? If appropriate, share this around the group.

REFLECTION

In the video Jane says: 'I want to make people think about the Creator God or the greater good through what I do.' Given the gifts outlined above this could apply to any kind of work.

How can you help people think about the Creator God through your skills, talents and creativity? What opportunities do you, as a representative of Christ, have for advancing the good of others? What opportunities are you missing or avoiding?

ACTION

Discuss how you might encourage people's gifts amongst your community so that others think about the Creator God or the greater good.

Who could you encourage this week to use their gifts? How would you encourage them practically?

Is there someone in your group that you could encourage, right now? If so, do it!

11.

changed lives

INTRODUCTION

This episode looks at the Revival in 18th century Britain and its deep influence on why the Gospel came to Australia. Nearly two centuries later, American evangelist, Billy Graham changed the lives of thousands of Australians through his preaching of the Gospel.

1. What do you know of the Billy Graham crusades in Australia? Tell any stories you know.

2. What might change in Australia if there was a large-scale revival?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. The Wesleyan Revival of the 18th century came about because John Wesley experienced a personal conversion. Stephen Tomkin said Wesley described himself as an 'almost Christian' - going to church, reading his Bible but then was 'born again'!

Read John 3:3-21

a) Why do you think Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, came to Jesus at night?

b) What exactly does being 'born again' mean?

c) Nicodemus is mentioned again in John 19:39. What impact might this discussion with Jesus have had on his life?

d) Verse 16 is very familiar to many of us. Paraphrase it below and make it personal for you.

4. John, the same author, is shown a vision in Revelation of all the people of the earth, at the end of time, standing before Jesus' throne.

Read Revelation 7:9-12

a) What do the two songs mean in ordinary English? Why are they saying these things?

b) Make a list of as many tribes and nations, peoples and languages as you can. How many did you get?

5. Uncle Ossie Cruse talked about the changes in his life when he became a Christian. Stuart Piggin talked about the changes in the Illawarra mining communities. What changes do you think you'd notice if your city or town experienced revival?

REFLECTION

John Wesley talked about being an 'almost Christian', meaning someone who ticks the right boxes but hasn't actually given their life to Christ. Do you know someone who that might apply to? If you're honest with yourself, are you like that (an 'almost Christian)?

If you want to, do you know how to move from being an 'almost Christian' to a born again Christian? If you don't know, talk to the leader of your group or contact your pastor.

ACTION

Have you ever explained your faith to someone else? Do you know how to do that?

If your group feels comfortable, share in pairs what you might say if someone asked you 'what do you believe?'

Who would you like to tell the Gospel to? Pray for that person and take any opportunities that God provides.

12.

off the sheep's back

INTRODUCTION

The business world is a dog-eat-dog world. Or is it? Karl interviews people in business across Australia and investigates how their faith and business interact.

1. What is your experience of being a Christian at work, or school, or in other public settings?

2. How do you think faith should impact how people act in their workplace?

WATCH THE EPISODE

DISCUSSION

3. Which person from the episode interested you? Why? How did their faith impact their work in the business world?

4. In the episode, Duncan Brown mentions Philippians 1:27, 'Whatever happens, as citizens of heaven live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.'

Read Philippians 2:14-16

a) Describe, in concrete terms, what this passage means.

b) When do you succeed at doing this? In what moments do you find it hardest to live this way?

c) What steps could you take to change, especially in the moments you struggle to be godly?

5. In the New Testament Paul writes to the Corinthian church about how they should be interacting with others.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:3-8

This passage is mistakenly understood to only be about love in a marriage, but as you read it's clear the focus is more comprehensive.

a) List all the characteristics of love mentioned here. Next to each characteristic, write down a concrete example (not from marriage) of that characteristic in action.

b) Which example prompts you to action in your own life? What will you do?

REFLECTION

Tim Kirk said, 'Faith interacts with every area of my life, my church involvement, raising my kids, doing my marriage. God doesn't look away when we engage in business.' He says they aim to be: 'positive, respectful, honouring and honest in all that we do.'

Sometimes it's easier to be godly in public than at home or with your family. Given that 'God doesn't look away' at home or at work or at church, where are you inconsistent? Are you kinder to people at church than your children or spouse? Are you rude to people at work but not at church? Are you superficially godly, but underneath grumbling or arguing?

Write down your inconsistencies and confess them to God. If you have the opportunity, share these things with someone who will hold you accountable.

ACTION

Thomas Moore was the ship's carpenter on the Britannia, and his family were pioneers in the Liverpool area in Sydney. When he died in 1840, he gave his entire fortune to future Gospel ministry. What is your reaction to this? Do you agree? Why do you react this way? If you have a will, what does it reflect of your current personal priorities and giving? How much is bequeathed to Gospel ministry?

Pray about any changes you might need to make and for wisdom in applying them.

How has Faith Runs Deep challenged you?

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