St Andrews Vision Series Bible Studies
1. JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH

Exciting reminders …

- Prayer & Praise *this* weds 28th 730-830pm at Church.
- Pls send a SG Photo and/or a short (5 sec) video to amelia.ross@standrews.net.au for thanksgiving dinner ASAP.
- Come to the Thanksgiving Dinner! (Nov 7th). Sign up by Fri 30th Oct. https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1650161

For Starters

- How do you react to 'Vision' language?
- What do you think of our Church's 'Vision'? "Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ through Belonging, Maturity and Outreach."

Read Matthew 16:13-28

1. What did God the father reveal to Peter? (v17)

2. It is on 'this' rock, (the rock of Peter's declaration that Jesus is Lord), that he will build his church (i.e. the preaching of the gospel). But there is more to this gospel than Peter realises. Reflecting on Matthew 16:21-23 …

    - What does Peter get wrong? Why?

    - Why is both Jesus death and resurrection necessary for him to build the Church?

3. What confidence can we have that the Church will be built as we share the news of Jesus death, resurrection and rule? Where else might we be tempted to place our confidence to 'build' the church?

4. What is the relationship between Jesus building his church and our building project? What are helpful and unhelpful expectations to place on a building?

5. What is to characterise the people who are built into his Church community? What does the threefold call mean in Mt16:24?
    - Deny self
    - Pick up cross
    - Follow me

6. What is the difference between ‘respectfully appreciating’ and ‘following’ Jesus?

7. Christian service can be difficult and even disappointing at times. What encouragement does Jesus give us according to the following verses?

    - V17.
    - V18.
    - V18b.
    - V25-27.

8. What are the personal implications of being part of Jesus building project here at St Andrews? If St Andrews is to be a ‘Home for growing disciples’, how might you express commitment to it?

Sermon Summary: Jesus builds his church: through his death and resurrection, forming a family of disciples who follow him in the way of the cross

Pray together

St Andrews Vision Series Bible Studies
2. MATURITY

"Growing disciples of Jesus Christ through belonging, maturity, and outreach."

For Starters

- How is God's love different to a sentimental kind of love?

Read Ephesians 3:14-17a

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

1. Why do you think we need God's power to help us appreciate the fact that Christ, our King, dwells in us?

2. Why do we sometimes resist Jesus' rule, and how can we surrender more areas of our life to him? Give examples.

Read Ephesians 3:17b-29

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

3. What does Paul mean when he says that Christ's love "Surpasses knowledge"?

4. What could help you to grow in your appreciation of Jesus great love?

5. Why and how do we go deeper TOGETHER into Christs love?

Read Ephesians 4:32-5:2

4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

6. Why is it important that our love for others flows from first knowing and receiving God's love, rather than simply trying harder to be good people?

7. How does imitating God's love in Christ help us to respond to people who irritate us?

8. What do you need to focus on more, marinating in his love or imitating his love?

Read Ephesians 3:20-21
20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

9. How would you describe your current spiritual condition:
    a. Still exploring Christianity
    b. Slowly growing towards maturity
    c. Plateauing
    d. In decline
    e. Loving life and loving the Lord!
    f. Other?

- What factors might contribute to where you're at now?

- How can God's great love for you help you?

- How does v20-21 help you?

10. "We don't mature by simply doing more for him, but by going deeper into his transforming love". Discuss

Suggested Prayer: Ask God
- To give us the power of his Spirit to surrender more fully to Jesus loving rule
- To open our eyes to the immeasurable riches of Christ's love for us.
- To help us express that Christlike love towards each other