

SEPTEMBER STUDIES

HE COVERS OUR SHAME



WEEK 7 // SEPTEMBER 2-8

ONE FOREVER || UNION WITH CHRIST

PAGE 4

WEEK 8 // SEPTEMBER 9-15

THE HONOUR-RESTORING GOSPEL

PAGE 8

WEEK 9 // SEPTEMBER 16-22

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

PAGE 12

WEEK 10 // SEPTEMBER 23-30

FINAL SIDE BY SIDE STUDY

PAGE 16

HE COVERS OUR SHAME

When most of us think of "shame," we think of other cultures and other times. We hear that the Bible was written to an "honour-shame" culture, but what does that have to do with us? But shame, no matter when or where we live, is one of the most stubbornly enduring parts of life in this broken world.

Ed Welch articulates it like this:

"What is shame?

You are shunned.

Faces are turned away from you.

They ignore you, as if you didn't exist.

You are naked.

Faces are turned toward you.

They stare at you, as if you were hideous.

You are worthless, and it's no secret.

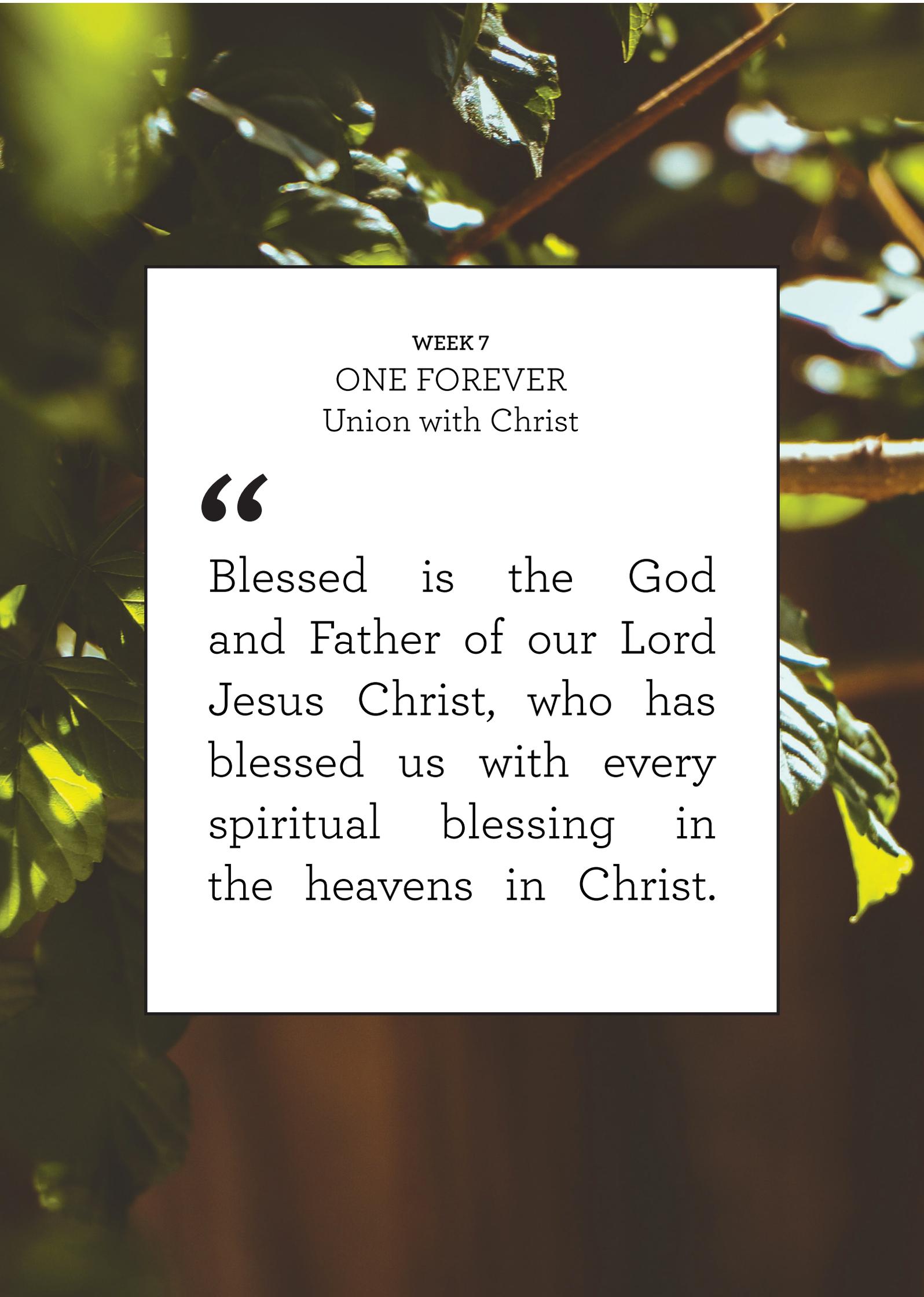
You are of little or no value to those whose opinions matter to you."

“ No matter when or where we live, shame is one of the most stubbornly enduring parts of life in this broken world.

When you hear it like that, does it still seem like a problem for another culture at another time? But the good news is that the Bible knows that we all struggle with shame in some way or another, and it's already provided an answer. On the cross, Jesus took our shame by dying the most shameful death, and he rose to new life to make us sons and daughters, to give us life and glory and holiness and acceptance.

Usually at Village Church we work through a book of the Bible, week-by-week. But one term a year we try and do something a little different, and work through a topic that we think will help us grow in the Gospel. So this term, we're going to be journeying

through Genesis, Leviticus, Luke, Romans, and many other books, to see how the Bible speaks to our shame and provides the greatest hope in Christ. We realise this series might be a bit of a challenge for us, mentally and emotionally, but we're asking God that he'll be kind in growing our hope in Christ through these weeks.



WEEK 7
ONE FOREVER
Union with Christ

“

Blessed is the God
and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us with every
spiritual blessing in
the heavens in Christ.

SIDE BY SIDE STUDY

BASED ON CHAPTERS 11 AND 12 OF SIDE BY SIDE

One privilege of growing friendships is to hear our friends' stories. Scripture itself is the story of God, and we know him through the story. So it's no surprise that we get to know one another through their stories.

We can ask for short stories from others:

"What did the doctor say?"

"Tell me about what happened at work."

"How was your time with your sister?"

But we can also ask for longer stories. They might require more time than we can find after a church service, so they might be questions to ask over coffee, or over dinner, or in community groups:

"How did you become a follower of Jesus? The longer version, please."

"What's the most rewarding part of your work?"

"Tell me about the family you were raised in."

What do you most appreciate when others have trusted you with their longer stories?

It doesn't get much better than hearing someone's story. And the better you know someone, the more you enjoy and appreciate them—the more you love them. And the more you love them, the more natural it can seem to ask for the longer, deeper stories.

What would you like people to know about your own story?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Union with Christ is a funny thing: the Bible tells us that it's incredibly important, but the Bible never tells us what it is. We only get word images for what it's like. It's like a vine; it's like a body; it's like a marriage. So, because of this, we need "the eyes of our heart" (Ephesians 1:18) to be enlightened—for our imaginations to be awakened by the Spirit, to catch a glimpse of this great and glorious hope that we have "in Christ."

Read Ephesians 5:22–33.

What does it mean to be united with Christ in this passage?

If we're "married" to Christ, then all that he has becomes ours, and all the we have becomes his. What does he take from us? What do we receive from him?

Read John 15:1–11

What does it mean to be united with Christ in this passage?

In talking about this call to abide, John Calvin said: "Let us therefore labour more to feel Christ living in us." What do you think of this quote? What might this look like for us to "labour to feel Christ living in us"?

Read Romans 6:1–11 and Colossians 3:1–4

What does it mean to be united with Christ in these passages?

I, _____, was baptized with Christ, raised with Christ, and my life is hidden with Christ in God, in heaven.

Through union with Christ, our story becomes Christ's story, and all that Christ has is ours. Read that sentence slowly and let that sink in. How does this change your story?

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Eric Pitt (Boys Brigade 1st Brisbane)

Pray for Eric and Boys Brigade as a group.

- Pray for John and Jarrah. Two teenagers They have started going to church.
- Pray for George another teenager who wants to start going to church in September.
- Pray for one of my teenage boys who struggles with anxiety.
- Pray that the juniors 8-11 year olds will grow in number and commitment.
- Pray for the leaders that they will grow in their faith and leadership capabilities.
- Pray for thanks that the members are growing in there faith and we have some strong Christian guys coming through.
- Pray for two new leaders who plan to join the leadership team pray that this will happen easily
- Pray for energy or myself.

WEEK 8
THE HONOUR-RESTORING
GOSPEL
Mark 14-15

“

“Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

SIDE BY SIDE STUDY

BASED ON CHAPTERS 13 AND 14 OF SIDE BY SIDE

In an age of social media and twenty-four-hour news cycles, we're constantly confronted with massive human needs, and we can be overwhelmed with the number of people to pray for. But it's impossible to pray for everyone. So we can start by prioritizing those we can pray with.

It's a simple suggestion, but when we do it, it's as if the universe opens before us. A two-dimensional conversation—between you and another person—goes three-dimensional.

Has this been your experience? When you've been struggling and someone's prayed for you, how has that changed the power of the conversation?

Think of one person, then two, maybe three. Growth starts with small steps.

Pray and follow up.

Pray and follow up.

Pray and follow up.

How could you follow up with someone today?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

In a shame-honour culture, public honour and recognition of your position was very important.

Read Mark 14:53–15:41

How is Jesus shamed by claiming to be God? (14:61–65)

How is Jesus shamed by claiming to be king? (15:12–13)

How is Jesus shamed by claiming to be the Saviour? (15:31–32)

How is Jesus shamed by the Father? (15:33–34)

Read Mark 10:43–44

How do these verses help us understand all the ways that Christ was willing to shame himself?

Why did the God, King and Saviour shame himself like this for us?

How does this change your shame before God?

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS

Queensland Theological College



To coincide with QTC week, we'll be praying for the college this week. Vilalge has six full-time students, a few part-time students studying there, as well as two board members, two admin staff and a lecturer. So many Villagers would appreciate your prayers for the college!

College:

Pray for a strong sense of community at QTC. Pray that everyone, both staff and students, would give mutual encouragement, grow in godliness and be pointing each other to Jesus.

Staff:

Pray for Nick Brennan who has recently given his final PhD oral exam in New Zealand. Pray for sustained energy and clear thinking as he continues to lecture and study for his exam.

Give thanks for our volunteers who faithfully serve in many ways around college, helping college life to run more smoothly.

Students:

Give thanks to God for the mission trip to Taiwan that happened recently. Give thanks for both the challenge and encouragement it brought to our students. Pray that Taiwanese people would not be blinded by false Gods and traditions so prevalent in their society.

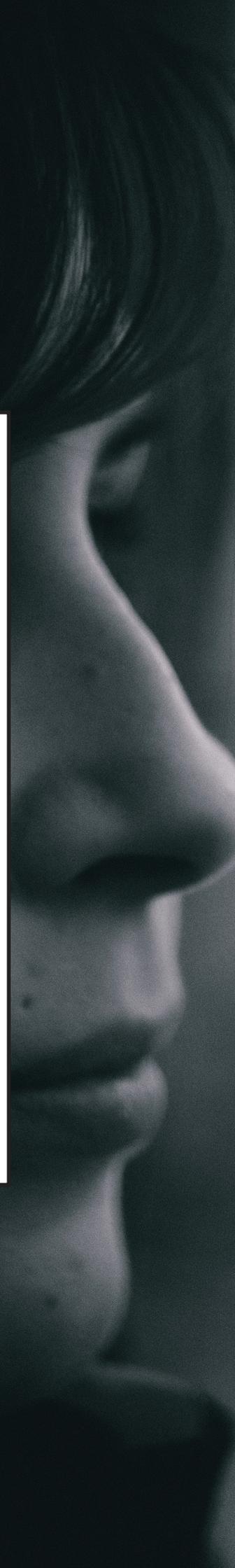
Give thanks for the 22 QCert students studying New Testament this semester. Give thanks for the opportunity for students from an ESL background to study the bible together. Pray they would grow in their love and understanding of who God is.

WEEK 9
NOT ASHAMED OF
THE GOSPEL

“

Romans 8

I am not ashamed of
the gospel, because it
is the power of God
that brings salvation to
everyone who believes.



SIDE BY SIDE STUDY

BASED ON CHAPTERS 15 AND 16 OF SIDE BY SIDE

These are some of the more challenging chapters of the book. Their basic message is this: If we want to love one another, we need to learn to talk about sin.

So what do you find most difficult about talking to others about sin?

“If we ignore our brothers’ and sisters’ sin, we’ve sinned against them, and we should ask for their forgiveness.” Ed Welch, *Side By Side*, page 135.

What do you think about this quote?

The Lord doesn’t wave all our sins in front of us, and they won’t be waved in front of us for eternity. And so, sometimes, our love for others covers over their sin (1 Peter 4:8), and wisdom means that we rest in the Spirit to do his work. But, more often, love calls us to humbly and patiently talk to the person about it.

Have you ever been confronted about your sin in a way that was edifying and fruitful? What made it helpful?

Have you ever been confronted about your sin in a way that was unedifying and hurtful? What made it so?

Ed Welch writes four ideas of things to say to someone to lovingly walk with them in their fight against sin:

“What can I do to help?”

“What can we do to fight?”

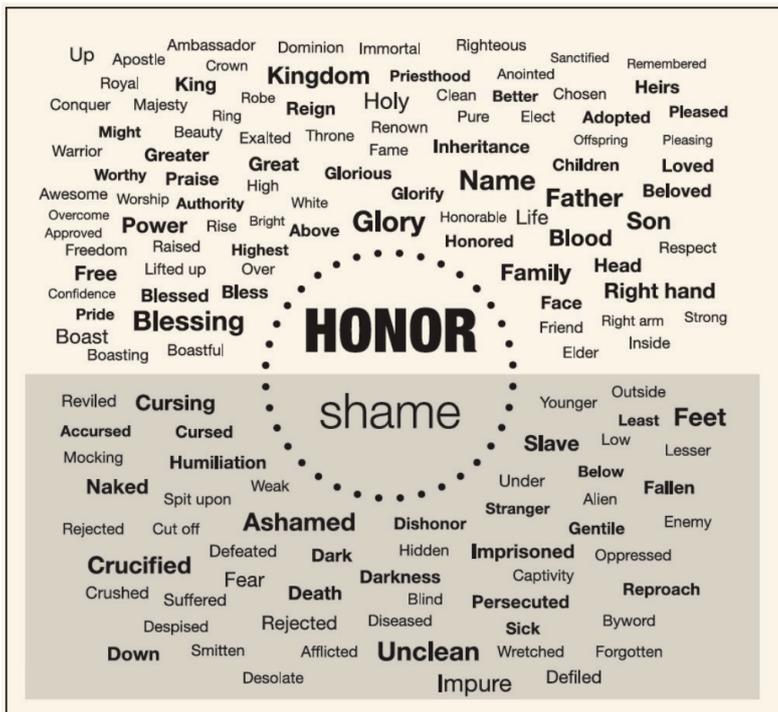
“Let’s develop a plan.”

“Let’s bring in some other people who can help.”

Side By Side, page 147.

Which of these would you find the most helpful for someone to say to you?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS



Find as many words of honour and shame in the passage below (maybe highlight them in different colours, or circle and underline them):

"Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who declared righteous. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:33-35, 37.

	shame	glory
Objective (a fact)		
Internal Experience (felt)		
External Experience (put on us by others)		

Read Romans 1:16. Where do you put this statement into the table?

Read Romans 8:35–39. Where do you put the shame and the glory in this passage?

Read Mark 8:38. Where would you add these words into the table?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

	shame	glory
Objective (a fact)		
Internal Experience (felt)		
External Experience (put on us by others)		

Take a few minutes to fill in as many boxes as you can above with the shame and glory in your own life.

What are some ways that others can put shame on Christians today?

How might these challenges change the way we speak the truth to others?

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS

**GENEVA
PUSH >>**

Geneva Push (Sarah Kuswadi)

Pray for Geneva Push as a group.

- Pray for people preparing for church plants in the coming years.
- Pray for many to be reached through the ministry of these plants.
- Pray for people to support the work of Geneva Push through prayer and finances.

Two Stormtroopers in white armor are standing in a forest. The trooper on the left is seen from the side, holding a blaster. The trooper on the right is facing forward, also holding a blaster. The background is a blurred forest with trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

WEEK 10
SIDE BY SIDE
Chapter 17 and
Conclusion

“

How can we
make the master
story fresh on
every retelling?

SIDE BY SIDE STUDY

BECAUSE THIS WEEK IS IN HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNITY GROUPS. BUT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FINISH THE FINAL SIDE BY SIDE STUDY IN YOUR OWN TIME (OR SIDE BY SIDE WITH OTHERS), FEEL FREE.

BASED ON CHAPTER 17 AND CONCLUSION OF SIDE BY SIDE

The final chapter of the book is about keeping the story in view.

Ephesians 1:3–14 is a particularly rich way of telling it, and Paul is so excited that the original passage was one long, breathless sentence. His flow of thought goes from past to present to future.

Read this psalm of praise as a way of getting oriented to our spiritual reality.

How can we make the master story fresh on every retelling, whether we tell it all or only mention one episode? Children are naturals with stories. They want to hear the same stories over and over, and each time the story draws them in. They aren't just watching a bear hunt—they're on a bear hunt. They are our models for keeping the master story in view, which again reminds us that this task of helping one another is for all ordinary people.

Have you heard people retell the master story, in a way that's helped realigned your focus?

How does retelling the story change your everyday life?

NOTES

PRAYER POINTS



VILLAGE CHURCH
2018