

Walking as Jesus Walked

How do we do this in our time of
Teslas, TikTok, and transmission
of viruses?



Introduction – Walking as Jesus Walked

Welcome to this study guide for our 2022 theme series for East Taieri Church. This guide will help you **reinforce** what you have heard and experienced in Sunday services, and **apply** what God is saying to your life.



This is primarily a **discipleship series**. It is about deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ, which happens best together in fellowship with other Christians. When our beliefs about Jesus and our relationship with Jesus are right and good, our behaviour and lifestyle and attitudes to others will inevitably change to be more like Christ. (Although it also works the other way as well.)

As we trust what Jesus has done for us, and seek to conform our life to his ways, we grow in our relationship with him.

Each study is anchored in the **first letter of John**, and our **key verse** for this series is **1 John 2:6**

“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.”

Literally it says that if we claim to live in Christ,
we must **“walk as Jesus walked.”**

So this series will help us examine how we are living.

- Are we Christ-like?
- How is our practical walking around life reflecting Jesus?

However, we aren't following Jesus wearing sandals on the dusty roads of Israel.

- How do we walk as Jesus walked in our time of Teslas, TikTok, and transmission of new variants of coronavirus around the world?

One of my Christian mentors wrote, *“How to combine faith with obedience is surely the essential task of the church as it enters the twenty-first century.”*ⁱ

And, *“Two great omissions from the Great Commission today are: omitting making disciples (we make converts); and we omit the training of our converts so that they may ever-increasingly do what Jesus directed.”*ⁱⁱ

OUTLINE OF THE SERIES:

Sunday 31 July: ***WALKING IN THE LIGHT OR STUMBLING IN THE DARKNESS?
CELEBRATING HOW JESUS HAS FREED US FROM SIN AND DEATH
SO WE HAVE LIFE. 1 John 1:1-2:2.***

Exercise: Facing up to the truth about ourselves.
The conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday 7 August: ***WALKING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.***

Exercise: Identifying the source and qualifications of those who give us information. How do we discern truth from fiction on the internet?

Sunday 14 August: ***WALKING IN LOVE:
FREE FROM SELF-CENTREDNESS SO WE CAN LOVE OTHERS.***

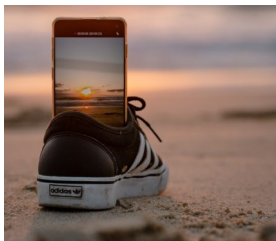
Exercise: Recognising and challenging individualism

Sunday 21 August: ***WALKING ALONGSIDE OTHERS:
FREE FROM JUSTIFYING OURSELVES TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO
OTHERS. MAINTAINING UNITY AND AVOIDING POLARISATION.***

Exercise: Real listening. Hearing what is on their hearts. Who do we spend time with? Are we becoming isolated from family and friends who we used to trust?

Sunday 28 August: ***WALKING IN GOD'S WAYS:
FREE FROM FALSE WAYS TO FOLLOW THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND
THE LIFE. LIVE ACCORDING TO WHAT MATTERS.***

Exercise: Developing the Art of Critical Thinking.



As you use this study guide can I encourage you about several things?

- If you missed Sunday's service **watch it online** on our East Taieri Church YouTube Channel. There is a link to it from our website.
- **Study this with others** if at all possible.
- **Pray as you begin**, expecting God to speak to you through the Bible passage, your experiences and the others you are studying this with.
- **1 John** is not a long letter. You can read the whole letter in a few minutes. You might like to read it through several times over the weeks of this series.
- Our **model of group bible study** is "**mutual discovery together**". The leader isn't the teacher – the Word of God is the teacher, and we all discover things together. **Leaders:** Please ask the questions, and then let others speak.
- Some questions are **Observation** (*what does the Bible say*) or **Explanation** (*what does it mean*), and we need those things, but make sure each week you get on to **Application** questions (*how the Bible applies to our lives today*). Most of the questions in this guide are application. Make it personal! **How does it change the way you think and behave?**
- As in previous years, I have included some **practical challenges**, or **spiritual practices**, you might try. Please don't make these rules we must follow. We aren't trying to become Pharisees. But I offer them as **training exercises for serious disciples**. They can put us in a place where God can do what we cannot. They help us notice what God is doing and join in.



In particular this year, I have included some practical exercises in **discerning and communicating what is true**, in a world which is sceptical about truth claims and full of misinformation.



Martin Macaulay
June 2022.

ⁱ Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering our Hidden Lives with God*, p.157.

ⁱⁱ Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*, p.271

WEEK ONE – WALKING IN THE LIGHT OR STUMBLING IN THE DARKNESS?

Have you ever stumbled your way down a path in the dark, feeling your way, trying not to trip or bang into anything? Then someone turns on a light or gets the flashlight on their phone working and suddenly you can see the way ahead, and you feel confident and safe.



Read from **1 John 1:1** through to **2:2**

1. What does John describe as the **source of light** (and life) (v5 and v2)?
2. By God's grace, how can we move from darkness to light, from sin to forgiveness, from death to life, from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God?

Spend a few minutes listening to any in your group who are happy to **tell their story of coming to faith in Christ**.

Some people may have a definite day they remember deciding to turn from sin and trust in Jesus as their Saviour. For others it may have been a very gradual thing over some years as they slowly appreciated more and more of what Jesus had done for them in dying on the cross. Often people who grew up in a Christian home have always had a sense of Jesus with them, although they may remember special times of responding, perhaps at camps or retreats.

John's letters often have **echoes of John's gospel**.

Compare for example these verses about Jesus being the atoning sacrifice for our sins, with **John 3:1-21** which answers the question about how we can see the kingdom of God by being born again.

3. It seems that John's opponents were **denying the reality of sin**, and this letter was partly written to correct that error. These days people often don't like to talk about "sin" or "sins", but John doesn't shy away from the existence of sin.

What does **1 John 1:8—2:2** say about sin and whether Christians still sin?

What is the promise of **verse 9**?

4. How do you feel about Jesus giving his life as a sacrifice for your sin?
5. Do you think humans deep down are **intrinsically good** or **intrinsically fallen**?

What **movies** can you think of which portray humans as basically good and able to improve themselves, or basically broken beyond repair and in need of rescue?

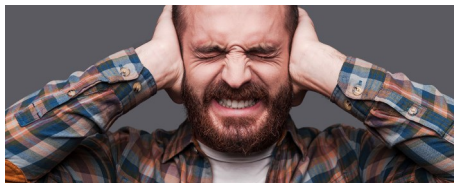
John writes about **the work of the Holy Spirit** more than any of the other gospel writers. He calls us to be a community of believers alert to the centrality of the Holy Spirit and ready to experience the fullness of the Spirit.¹

6. What has helped you **stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit** making you aware of the reality of your sin and the blessing of forgiveness?

John 16:13 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

John 16:8 “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”

THIS WEEK’S TRUTH EXERCISE:
FACING UP TO THE TRUTH
ABOUT OURSELVES



Personal insight is a most rare and precious quality. Thankfully Christ and the body of Christ can help us with this.

Ask God by his Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and insight.

Ask God for a Christian you can trust who can speak the truth in love and help you gain insight into yourself:

- What are your **strengths** and **spiritual gifts** for which you can be grateful?
- What are your **weaknesses** for which you need to seek help?
- What are your **sins** for which you need to ask forgiveness?

Some **Bible verses which might help your reflection:**

Psalm 139

Romans 12:1-13

Colossians 3:1-17

Prayer of Examen:

Daily Examen is a prayerful reflection on the day which Christians have used for centuries to help them see God's hand at work in their whole experience of the day.



The steps in this prayer are to:

1. **Become aware** of God's presence.
2. Review the day with **gratitude**.
3. Notice your **emotions**.
4. **Choose one experience** of the day and **pray through** it. (*It might be thanksgiving, intercession, praise or repentance...*)
5. **Look toward tomorrow**. Ask for God to help you walk in the light tomorrow, being honest about how you feel about what is ahead.

Some people find it helpful to write about this in their spiritual journal.

You can **find out more about examen** in this **podcast** from **Ruth Haley Barton**:

<https://transformingcenter.org/2017/04/episode-6-transformation-self-knowledge-self-examination/>

or in some notes from a retreat on the **Denver Theological Seminary website**:

https://denverseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/0e9289759_1569520112_women-engage-91719-examen-ppt.pdf

ⁱ Gary M Burge, *The Letters of John: NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998) p.24

WEEK TWO – WALKING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER

What has **your relationship with your human father** been like?

People in your group will have had different experiences. Especially for people who are missing their father, or don't have happy memories of their father, **read the following verse aloud** and then pray, thanking our Heavenly Father for loving us so deeply:

***“See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1***



*Thank you, Heavenly Father, for showing us how much you love us
by sending your Son Jesus to reveal yourself to us
and to be our sacrifice for sin.*

*Please give each of us a fresh experience of the love that comes
from the Father Heart of God.*

Thank you for wrapping us in your loving arms, even when we stray.

It seems that those to whom John wrote this letter were facing division and conflict that threatened their fellowship with one another and with God. John's opponents were struggling to believe the incarnation – that God became fully human – fully flesh – when he sent his Son as the Christ.

1. How did John's gospel say followers of Jesus would be led into all truth?
See **John 16:13**

However, we have probably all experienced Christians disagreeing about what the Holy Spirit is saying. What do we do when there are conflicting claims in a charismatic setting? Gary Burge writes, *“One must teach discernment and urge congregants to weigh claims made in the voice of the Spirit.”ⁱ*

John gives some **tests to help us discern** if it is the Holy Spirit and if something is true:

2. What tests does John give for recognising the Spirit of God (as opposed to some false spirit)? **1 John 4:2** and **1 John 2:22**.

3. Why is it important that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine?
4. John uses the phrase “*what you have heard from the beginning*” a couple of times (1 John 2:7 and 2:24). What was it that they had “*heard from the beginning*”? See **1 John 1:1-3**
5. Have you come across the belief that a new idea, or new teaching, or alternative narrative is better and more reliable than the old ways, or old teaching, or generally accepted viewpoint in mainstream media or science?

Why do you think people are suspicious of the media, or science, or medicine or the government, and prefer to believe alternative sources of information? (e.g. Can you think of a time when the media/science/medicine/government have been wrong?)



THIS WEEK’S TRUTH EXERCISE: DISCERNING TRUTH ON THE INTERNET

*(If there is time in a small group evening
you could do this together)*

Think about a time when you received a scam email or social media post or text or phone call that almost tricked you. You probably used unconscious wisdom and common sense to decide it was a scam, but even very smart people can be scammed, so try to identify some of your discernment process.

You could **apply the following** to the next scam or online information you receive: ⁱⁱ

1. Do you have **any bias** that makes you susceptible to the scam?

(e.g. a lonely person might be more susceptible to a relationship scam over Tinder. Someone struggling financially might be more susceptible to an email promising a big payment.)

2. Who is **behind the information**?

- a. What are their motivations? *e.g. Tabloids have sensational headlines to sell newspapers.*
- b. Be watchful about the way big brands like Fox and Disney have been bought by people who now have a media platform to promote their agenda.
- c. Are they a legitimate journalist or are they being paid to give you certain content?
- d. Do you feel like you are being sold something?
- e. What qualifications do they have?

(Remember even information from people with impressive sounding qualifications need to be fact-checked and peer reviewed.)

- f. How do you know they are who they say they are?
- g. Do you know them personally and do they have a track record of being credible? What do your friends and family say about them?

3. **What is the evidence** that supports or discredits the information?

- a. What are **other sources** saying?

Tip: Carry out a **keyword search** that will help you get off the page you are on and onto other sources. Note that Google uses your search history to help decide what search results you see and so can lead you to similar websites. Try searching for “..... discredited” to see if anyone has sought to disprove it.

Tip: Wikipedia isn't perfect, but at least it has various locks and editing checks and requires citations to prevent someone posting whatever they like.

- b. Look for **spelling** and **grammatical errors**, or **weird** looking **account names** or email addresses. These might be generated by bots or Artificial Intelligence (on Twitter, Instagram, Websites, etc)
- c. **Look at the URL** carefully. They may be trying to mimic a real organisation, but not have the right URL or email name.
e.g. ABCnews.net is trying to mimic the actual ABC website (ABCnews.com).

4. Be **politely sceptical**. *The New York Times* is more trustworthy than a blog you've never read before, but you still need to be careful.
5. Most important of all, does the information and the way it is presented leave you **feeling closer to Jesus and his ways**, or more distant? e.g.
- Is it helping you **love God and love your neighbour** (or more about loving yourself)?
 - Is it bringing **mercy and justice** for all?
 - Are those involved showing **humility or pride**?
 - What **fruit of the Spirit** are evident? (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*)



ⁱ Gary M Burge, *The Letters of John NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan 1998), p.33

I am grateful to a podcast with MediaWise Journalist Heaven Taylor-Wynn for some of these ideas for discerning fake news and misinformation.

<https://jenhatmaker.com/podcast/series/series-19/>

MediaWise is a part of Poynter – a nonprofit media institute and newsroom.

“MediaWise empowers people of all ages to become more critical consumers of content online. We teach people digital media literacy and fact-checking skills to spot misinformation, with initiatives specifically designed to engage Gen Z, college students and older people. Our innovative, digital-first program works constantly to address the ever-changing landscape of misinformation across the internet.”

From their website <https://www.poynter.org/mediawise/>



WEEK THREE - WALKING IN LOVE: FREE FROM SELF-CENTREDNESS SO WE CAN LOVE OTHERS

1 John has a lot to say about the way that our ability to love others flows from and is a testimony to us having received God's great love and salvation. The fact that we can love others shows that Jesus lives in us.

Read **1 John 3:11-23** and **1 John 4:7-21**

1. Notice the start of **1 John 3:11** *"For this is the message you have received from the beginning..."* Think back to week 2. One way we test what we believe the Spirit is saying to us is to check consistency with what Jesus said. What was Jesus' command (which they had received from the beginning) **John 13:34-35**?
2. How do you feel about the high calling of **1 John 3:16-18**? This echoes Paul's message in **Galatians 2:20**.
3. What do you see as the link between "believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another..." ? (**3:23** and **4:7-12**)
4. How has and is God helping you to **put others ahead of your own wants and needs**? It might not be as dramatic as "laying your life for your brothers and sisters" (3:16) but how is God challenging you to love others **"with action and in truth"** ? (3:18)
5. Who are your brothers and sisters? (Does it include those you are in conflict with?)
6. Can you think of any songs, or movies, advertisements, news articles, or current events, or sayings that reveal the **individualistic** (and often self-centred) **culture** we live in? e.g. "Look out for number one."
7. If your group has time you could look at the tragic example of Cain in Genesis 4:1-16. What was the motive for the murder?
8. What is the image or metaphor for the way **Christians are linked together** in **1 John 3:1 and 3:13, 15, 16**? As well as the "the family of God" the bible uses the metaphor of "the body of Christ". Christians are different organs, but linked in one body. Just like different children but part of the same family. How might Christians work together to challenge that individualistic way of living and build a more caring community?
Is there something your small group could work together on?

C.S. Lewis (in a time before gender inclusive language was common) wrote:

Christianity thinks of human individuals not as mere members of a group or items in a list, but as organs in a body—different from one another and each contributing what no other could. When you find yourself wanting to turn your children, or pupils, or even your neighbours, into people exactly like yourself, remember that God probably never meant them to be that. You and they are different organs, intended to do different things.

On the other hand, when you are tempted not to bother about someone else's troubles because they are “no business of yours,” remember that though he is different from you he is part of the same organism as you. If you forget that he belongs to the same organism as yourself you will become an Individualist. If you forget that he is a different organ from you, if you want to suppress differences and make people all alike, you will become a [Collectivist – where everyone is to be the same]. But a Christian must not be either a Collectivist or an Individualist.

I feel a strong desire to tell you—and I expect you feel a strong desire to tell me—which of these two errors is the worse. That is the devil getting at us. He always sends errors into the world in pairs—pairs of opposites. And he always encourages us to spend a lot of time thinking which is the worse. You see why, of course? He relies on your extra dislike of the one error to draw you gradually into the opposite one. But do not let us be fooled. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and go straight through between both errors.ⁱ

THIS WEEK'S TRUTH EXERCISE:

RECOGNISING AND CHALLENGING INDIVIDUALISM AROUND US.

- Keep your eyes and ears open this week and see if you can record **3 examples** of ways you or people around you behaved that focused on “**individual rights**” instead of “**the good of all.**”
- For each of the three, write down where there is truth and good in the “individual rights”, as well as the wrong and evil. Where is the truth and good, and wrong and evil, for the “corporate good”? For example, keeping under the speed limit and obeying other road rules. What about an ambulance exceeding the speed limit?
- Pray for and reach out to those who have been hurt by or become distanced from the family of God, either when they have been forced to conform, or when they have become isolated because they don't connect with people different to themselves.



ⁱ C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, Bk. 4, 6

WEEK FOUR - WALKING ALONGSIDE OTHERS: FREE FROM JUSTIFYING OURSELVES TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO OTHERS.



We saw last week that **John's first letter** often uses the image of "*the family of God*" and refers to his readers as "*brothers and sisters*". Families can be wonderful, but they can also be challenging.

My brother and I used to have our share of fights when we were young. We had to share a room. I remember after one squabble we divided our room in two with furniture and pieces of wood so that he had his space and I had mine.

These days we get on very well, but back then there were times when we were convinced we needed that separation barrier to survive. We got so angry with each other that we couldn't see anything good in the other, and didn't want to listen to each other. Build the wall!

Read **1 John 2:9-11**

1. What is the **challenge for relationships** with other believers here?
2. What are some of the issues that cause us to **build walls** between Christians? Are you becoming isolated from friends and family over some controversial issue? Why do you think that is happening?

In his book ***Life Together***, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "*Our love for others is learning to listen.*"ⁱ

Listening to others is a sacrifice, because we have our own viewpoint and want others to hear it and agree with us.

3. When John thought of love (*agape* – God's kind of sacrificial love) what came to his mind? How did he know what love is truly like?
(see **1 John 3:16** and **4:10**)

We may have to sacrifice our own preference, or at least some of it, to keep unity with others. The authors of ***Getting to Yes*** encourage a process where everyone describes their ideas and beliefs, and also the concerns and priorities that lie behind these. This allows couples or groups to look deeply at those concerns and priorities in order to find a way forward that addresses as many of the concerns and priorities as possible.ⁱⁱ

Read 1 John 2:18-27

4. What was John (as a pastor) concerned about for his readers? (2:26)
5. How compromising and accommodating would you say John is being to those he disagrees with in these verses?
6. Why do you think John is being so hard line? What are the consequences?
7. What are the non-negotiables for you? (beliefs or issues) What are the consequences if they aren't followed or agreed to.

Roy Clements, writing about these verses in 1 John, brings a challenge about **being discerning and not gullible**:

In 1823 a man called Smith claimed he received a visitation from an angel called Moroni, who directed him to some gold plates hidden on a hill near Palmyra in New York State. According to Smith, the plates were inscribed with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, which he was enabled miraculously to translate by means of a specially provided pair of angelic spectacles. The translation revealed extraordinary facts about the early history of the American continent, not least that America was not discovered by Christopher Columbus, but by a Jewish prophet called Lehi, 600 years before Christ, and that Christ himself appeared after his resurrection to the descendants of that ancient Jewish family in the New World.

I find all that incredible, but three million adherents of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, popularly known as the Mormons, believe it all.

The greatest problem for the Christian church today is not so much the rise of scientific scepticism, as the growth of public gullibility.

As Chesterton said, 'When people abandon the truth, they don't believe in nothing, they believe in anything.'



We will explore developing necessary critical thinking further next week.

THIS WEEK'S TRUTH EXERCISES: LISTENING TO OTHERS.

Even if we will ultimately end up discerning the other person is wrong, loving them means we need to be able to listen carefully to them.

A) This week make an extra effort to **listen to others**. Some **tips to help**:

- Ask questions
- Don't be afraid of a pause in the conversation
- Don't start talking about yourself and your own experiences or viewpoints.
- Encourage them, "Interesting, tell me more...", "How did you feel about that?"
- Reflect back to the person what you hear them saying. (Brings clarification and shows you are listening deeply).



You might choose to **reflect on a conversation** you had during the day and write down as much of the dialogue as you can remember.

Critique it to see how well you listened.

B) A married couple, or working colleagues could use this **second exercise** in **Assertiveness and Active Listening** to improve their communication.^{iv}

Each person writes a "**wish list**" of (say) three things they would like to see more of or less of in their relationship. They take turns sharing these things, only surrendering their turn when they are satisfied their partner has understood and reflected back the message accurately.

- **Assertiveness**: means being able to express your feelings and ask (nicely) for what you want in your relationship.
e.g. *"I'm feeling out of balance. While I love spending time with you, I also want to spend time with my friends. I would like us to find some time to talk about this."*
- **Active Listening**: means hearing what the other is saying and being able to restate it to reflect back to them the essence of what they are asking for.
e.g. *"I heard you say you are feeling 'out of balance', and enjoy the time we spend together but that you also need more time to be with your friends. You want to plan a time to talk about this."*

This isn't as easy as you might think, especially making it a habit.

ⁱ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (London: SCM, 1967) p.75.

ⁱⁱ Roger Fisher, William Ury and Bruce Patton, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* (New York: Penguin Books, 2011) cited by Lynne Baab, *The Power of Listening*, (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014) p.65

ⁱⁱⁱ Roy Clements, *Walking in the Light* (Eastbourne: Kingsway, 1989) p.61

^{iv} This exercise comes from the Prepare-Enrich marriage resource.

WEEK 5: WALKING IN GOD'S WAYS: FREE FROM FALSE WAYS TO FOLLOW THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life..."* (John 14:6), and *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:32)



I think most of us want to know the truth, follow the truth, and avoid false ways.

Where do we find the truth?

Read **1 John 3:19-24**

1. Have you had times when you haven't "felt" close to God, and perhaps even "felt" condemned in your heart, doubting that you belong in God's family? If we can't trust the feelings in our heart at those times, where does v.20 say we can find confidence and reassurance?
2. How does **3:22-24** (and it's wonderful promise of answered prayer) describe our relationship with God and response to what God has commanded? There are at least three key strategies that should be a part of every Christians life.

Look for:

- a. Believing the Words of Jesus
 - b. Following the Way or Commands of Jesus
 - c. Being filled with the Spirit of Jesus (or the Holy Spirit)
3. What are some of the **spiritual practices** (things you choose to do as you follow Christ) that have helped you be in a place where God can help you with the three things above?

Read **1 John 4:1-6**

4. What are the **two spirits** John wants his readers to be able to distinguish? 4:1 and 4:6
5. What do you understand the **antichrist** (or the spirit of the antichrist) to be?
6. Why do you think it is important that Jesus Christ came as **a real man** (in the flesh) 4:2?
7. How does Jesus **help you to discern** what is God's way and what is the world's way? What tests do you use?



**THIS WEEK'S TRUTH EXERCISE:
DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING**

We need our minds to be renewed and transformed in Christ. **1 Cor 2:16**
We need spiritual wisdom and maturity to be able to critically assess things and so discern good from evil, God's ways from the ways of the world.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Try some of the exercises below to help develop your critical thinking
(transforming your mind)

1. When you are either communicating data or looking for data, try **interacting with it more**. E.g. Use an **“estimate and reveal”** approach. Invite people to guess what the true answer is and then tell them.

Try this example: “Guess what percentage of peer-reviewed climate change scientific papers published between 1993 and 2003 disagreed with the scientific consensus that human-caused climate change is happening.”

(Answer is upside down in small print below)

2. Listen well to someone about a controversial issue and **try to understand their viewpoint** (even if you don't agree with it).

What **new insights** have you gained? e.g. the US Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v Wade and what that will mean for people in the US.

3. **Ask some good questions** about an issue you are trying to discern the truth about:
 - What is **really going on** here (what agendas, religions, political parties, business interests)?
 - **Do I trust the person or organisation** giving me the information? Why/Why not?
 - Is something a fact, an opinion, or an idea?
 - What is the **problem**? What **solutions** can you see?
 - What are the **risks**? What are the **benefits**?
4. **Meet with a mentor** (who isn't afraid to challenge your thinking) and talk through an issue and help you identify what is true.
5. Become **more self-aware**:
 - a. Try to identify **your own bias** on an issue,
 - b. how **your beliefs and values** affect the way you think...
 - c. Consider a **personality types analysis**
 - d. Recognise that **we don't know everything**, and **we could be wrong**.
6. **Read some "myth-busters"** to develop your "polite scepticism" about things you hear: e.g. wikipedia's list of **common misconceptions**.

Does cooking food in a microwave reduce its nutritional value?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_common_misconceptions



Answer: None of the papers disagreed with the scientific consensus that human-caused climate change is happening.

WALKING AS JESUS WALKED : THEME SERIES FOR 2022

A **discipleship series** anchored in the **first letter of John**.

Key verse: 1 John 2:6 *“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.”*



How do we walk as Jesus walked
in our time of Teslas, TikTok, and transmission
of new variants of coronavirus around the world?

This theme series includes a **study guide** for individuals or small groups
to supplement and deepen engagement with each week's topic.

It also includes **practical exercises** in discerning and communicating truth.

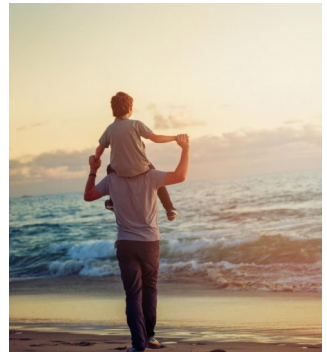
SUN 31 JULY **WALKING IN THE LIGHT OR STUMBLING IN THE DARKNESS?**

SUN 7 AUG **WALKING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER**

SUN 14 AUG **WALKING IN LOVE:
FREE FROM SELF-CENTREDNESS**

SUN 21 AUG **WALKING ALONGSIDE OTHERS**

SUN 28 AUG **WALKING IN GOD'S WAYS**



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