



THE  
**Reconnected**  
Life

**21-day personal  
study guide**  
for those  
reconnecting



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# INTRODUCTION

**Somehow or other, God has got your attention and is drawing you back. It's likely that you have had past disappointments with the church or with Christians acting in an unChrist-like manner. So a journey back to God and His people is underway, as you have come to the end of your own resources and started to hear the call of your Father who has been looking out for you every day.**

Life in the twenty-first century is highly dynamic, volatile and challenging. How do you respond to the changes in the society in which you live? What is your response to the immense economic, environmental and global pressures facing us?

As governments and organisations grapple to find solutions that will reassure people, where is your confidence? Many of the things we have always taken for granted, such as secure banks, pensions and careers no longer provide the security and certainty they once did.

Listen to what Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith says:

'I have bread for you, I have water for you to drink, I will provide for you, I will show you the way, I will help you, I am enough for you, I love you, I will let nothing separate you from me and I will bring you to my Father if you come to me. I will not necessarily change your circumstances although I can do anything, but I will do and be everything you need – if you come to me, I will bring you through this life to be with me forever to a place where all things are new. You must first trust me with your very life and be willing to admit your disobedient selfishness – I died for you to take your punishment so that you might have new life. So come and follow me.'

These amazing truths are from Jesus' own words in the New Testament. If you will do these studies for twenty-one days, asking God to help you, you will discover the joy of re-connection to Christ and His good plans for your life.

In these times, when society is adrift on a wild sea of disbelief and uncertainty, you need more than ever to be connected to Christ and to understand the vital truth of what it means to be 'in Christ'. This core truth has been neglected for too long and it's time to rediscover what would happen if churches, leaders and Christians connected to the person, power and mission of Christ.

This is the vision of Connect4Life, a ministry for the whole church, rooted in God's Word to bring the wider resources of the Church to every part of the Church. It considers four vital aspects of connection to Christ with support brought to each one of them so that churches, leaders and Christians are strengthened for life:



• **The Connected** – those who have connected with the person, power and mission of Christ



• **The Disconnected** – those who have walked away, for whatever reason



• **The Reconnected** – those coming 'home', or on their way back, if the Church will welcome them



• **The Unconnected** – those who have not yet made a connection with Christ or His Church

The twenty-one days of personal study contained in this book will strengthen you as a disciple of Christ. The readings may challenge you, but will help you to understand and define yourself with fresh certainty through your connection to the person, power and mission of Christ. For more information on the tools and resources available for you, your church, your leaders and your connected and unconnected friends, go to [www.connect4life.org.uk](http://www.connect4life.org.uk).

**DAY 1** **REMAIN IN ME**

**TRUTH IN CHRIST** **1**  
*'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5)*

**POWER IN CHRIST** **2**  
 Read John 15:1-17

**3 CHECK YOUR CONNECTIONS**  
 Listen to the possibility that there are things in my life that need to be cut off so I can bear more fruit  
**Circle your answer:** Yes No Uncertain  
 If I am in Christ, Jesus tells me that I am already clean because of the words He has already spoken to me (v.3). So am I remaining in Him, in His righteousness and holiness?  
**Circle your answer:** Yes No Uncertain  
 Reflecting Christ to others through love and service is fruit that I want to bear today  
**Circle your answer:** Yes No Uncertain

**4 PLUG IN**  
 Jesus takes care of us so that He is the true vine – there are other vines which people can 'be in'. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in partnership for your good! God is a nurturing gardener. He cares and tends the vine carefully. When branches need to be removed, He doesn't do it randomly, or carelessly rip them off. They are identified by the Holy Spirit (John 16:3) and pruned for purpose back to the place from where new growth can come. A cut off branch is dead – it cannot bear fruit, it has no potential except as firewood. God's intention is for you to bear much fruit for His glory showing yourself to be in Christ. His disciple becoming more like Him. If you are in Christ, you cannot help but bear fruit for Him.  
 If you are truly 'in Christ', you are joined to Him for ever and nothing can separate you from Him. These studies will help you assess whether you really are 'in Christ' or whether you've spent your life so far going through the motions. If you are in Christ, then know this about yourself:  
**MY IDENTITY**  
 I am a child of God and that never changes (Ephesians 1:5)  
**MY VALUE**  
 I know I am loved by God because His only Son Jesus died for me (John 3:16)  
**MY PURPOSE**  
 My life is to do God's will and to enjoy Him – this is for His glory (Eph 1:14; Eph 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:9–10)

**5 SWITCH ON AND GO**  
*Spirit of God, breathe on me. Help me to honestly reflect on the strength of my connection with You, Father, I trust myself to you for the things that need to be cut back in me. Lord Jesus, as I go into this day, may Your words remain in me. Amen.*

**BLUE**  
 PERSONAL ISSUE

**BROWN**  
 TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

**EARTH**  
 IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

## GETTING THE MOST FROM THE DAILY STUDIES

Taking the metaphor of a correctly wired electrical plug, each day we will look at:

- **Truth in Christ** **1**
- **Power in Christ** **2**
- **Your connections** **3**  
 Blue = aspects of self that need to be neutralised  
 Brown = the live connection in Christ  
 Earth = real life today
- **Plugging in** **4**
- **Switching on** **5**

**May God build you in Christ through His Word and Spirit as you use this material – it will help you understand your identity, value and purpose, enabling you to face anything and everything.**



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need' (Luke 15:14)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 15:11–16

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Sometimes I have felt like the Prodigal son, squandering good things my Father has given me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

Knowing that Jesus told this story with compassion for me gives me hope for a new start

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I realise that returning to my Father means I will need to leave un-godly living behind me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

I can think of a time when, like the Prodigal, I chose to go my own way. For me, it was thankfully only at a superficial level and only for a short time, before guilt and shame overtook me. Coming to my senses was a hard experience. This is how it is for the many who walk away from God's best for them. The motives driving the Prodigal could have been temptation of distant bright lights and sounds, the impatience of youth or even a bad relationship with his older brother. As you think back to the time when you walked away from the Church, was it because you felt badly treated or let down by the Church, the leaders, or by God, or was it that you were tempted away?

The good news is that no matter what it was that caused you to walk away, or when, God has never abandoned you. He wants an on-going relationship with you. If you will trust Christ with your life and follow Him, God sees you as being 'in Christ', and therefore freely receiving His holiness and righteousness. This joins You to Him for ever so that nothing can separate you from Him. These studies will help you live out the reality of being 'in Christ' when you will know:

**YOUR IDENTITY:** I am a child of God and that never changes (Eph. 1:5)

**YOUR VALUE:** I know I am loved by God because His only Son Jesus died for me (John 3:16)

**YOUR PURPOSE:** I want to use my life for the glory of my Father God and to do His will (Eph. 1:14; 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:9–10)

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Dear God, I need another chance. Forgive my sin of turning away from You and help me on the journey back to You. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to re-connect with You. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!"' (Luke 15:17)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 15:17-20

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I find it easy to admit that going my own way is sinning against God

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I know that God is my Father who forgives me whenever I return to Him and confess my sin

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

As I come back to God I am ready for changes in my thinking and living

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

In all our lives there come moments of realisation. Some of these are deeply profound and life-changing. Others are just part of learning how life works. Think back to your school days – the moment when you first understood algebra or French irregular verbs, or learned how to ride a bike or swim. Suddenly something clicks. So it was with the Prodigal son and there is the same potential for all of us.

The Prodigal forgot who he was in a foreign land and sold himself into slavery. But then something clicked and he came to his senses. He remembered who he was and who his father was. He was hungry and knew his father could feed him. He knew it was time to return and ask for forgiveness. How do you think he felt? As we'll see, he wasn't sure of the reception he would get – he felt dirty and unworthy, but knew it was better at home so he began the long journey back.

Maybe that's you too? Many who begin the journey with Jesus walk away to the bright lights and tinsel. It seems attractive for a while but then we realise something has been lost. The truly wonderful thing is that when we begin the homeward trek, each step takes us closer to our destiny in Christ, a restored relationship with the Father who never stopped loving us. There is always a guaranteed welcome from the Father. In the parable the father had been looking out and spotted his son 'while he was still a long way off' (Luke 15:20). He ran to his beloved son and hugged him – he didn't worry about how he looked or what others thought. You and I are regarded no differently! Over the next few days we'll look at some others who have moments of realisation on their life journey.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Dear Father, thank You for these moments of realisation. Please strengthen me on my journey back to You that I may re-discover who I am, Yours, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'*  
(Luke 15:23–24)

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 15:21–24

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I can hardly believe that God would want to have a party with me after all I've done.

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

If God has forgiven me for my sin then no one else can condemn me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

If my Father gives me a new set of party clothes to celebrate in, then let's party!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

## PLUG IN:

Here the father runs to his son and hugs him. There's no reference to the son's appearance and probably terrible smell, just unrestrained joy: 'Quick! Bring the best robe ...' (Luke 15:22). Now there's a father who's already planned a party for his returning son!

The robe has a deep significance. In Zechariah 3:1–5 we read about Joshua, the high priest. He was described as 'a burning stick snatched from the fire' (v.2). Dressed in filthy clothes, with Satan standing by to accuse him, the Lord commanded that Joshua be given new clothes and a clean turban: 'See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you' (v.4). Not only does he get a long robe of distinction, but he is given a signet ring of authority and sandals like a son. His identity is rediscovered: he is a son. His value is reclaimed: the fatted calf is given only for special occasions and honoured guests. His purpose is restored: he has a place in the family and a role on the estate. The place in the heart of the Father was never in question.

Good news like this is to be joyfully received. To do otherwise is to make a big mistake. Our Father loves us and wants us to share in His joy – the forgiven sinner can return singing songs of joy. When your Father gives you good news and precious gifts, it may seem too good to be true, but they are pearls of great value and need to be treasured. Why? Because your Father treasures you. So, begin to celebrate with him and learn to party again!

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Father, You make it worth the journey. Thank You for providing for all my needs, for all You are doing in my life and for all You are teaching me. Help me to journey on with Jesus today in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*





## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'* (Luke 15:32)

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 15:25–32

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I need help to forgive those like the older brother who judge me.

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength' (Phil. 4:13) – Jesus is true to His word and I believe it!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

I'm not going to let grumpy Christians drive me away from God

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**



## PLUG IN:

Sadly, the truth is that the Church is full of imperfect people led by imperfect leaders – all are works in progress, as are you and I. The father must have been experiencing very mixed emotions. On the one hand, he is over the moon because his younger son has returned safely, but on the other he has the huge disappointment of the reaction of his older son who is quick to heap condemnation with reasons to back it!

It's the same when one of us returns to the fold and another of the flock comes and effectively head butts us, as only sheep know how! The more senior they are, the bigger the horns they have and the more it hurts! Now what do you think the Shepherd is there for? He is there to look after all the sheep and to deal with each of their individual foibles. Likewise, the father is there to deal with the older brother. Note how tenderly he speaks to him. But he doesn't call off the party – in fact, he pleads with him to join in the celebrations.

It wasn't the younger brother who sprang to his own defence. He didn't say, 'I thought you might react like this, I'm off!' He left it to his father to deal with, and so should we, even if we find it hard. Remember that the amazing grace of which we sing is a living reality for the likes of you and me ... and all the 'older brothers' too. Hopefully, there'll come a time when others who have walked away from God and church return, and you will show fellow 'older brothers' how to celebrate, your welcoming attitude shaped by the grace of God. Paul said this in 1 Corinthians 15:10: 'But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.' Let His grace shape you too.



## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Father, thank You for the unconditional love and mercy You show me. I deserve punishment but You give me grace through Jesus. Help me to understand this better, to receive Your grace and to live in the effect of it. Amen.*





## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matt. 16:15–16)

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Matthew 16:13–20

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

It's true that I do sometimes have doubts, but I want to believe 100%

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I too have had this 'zing' moment – I know in my heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

If being a Christian carried a death sentence, there'd still be enough evidence to condemn me!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

It mattered to Jesus who people thought He was – it mattered then and it matters now. Why is that? Surely not because of any vanity or insecurity in Him – for there was no trace of either. It mattered to Him because our view of who He is will affect our eternal destiny, and it still matters because He cares about us and knows that we need a sinless Saviour.

The disciples had heard Jesus preach the Sermon on the Mount and heard His amazing teaching, they'd seen Him heal the sick and feed thousands, and yet in Matthew 15:16, Jesus had this to say: 'Are you still so dull?' The disciples were a bit slow to catch on to the meaning of His parables, of His miracles and of His teaching – not so different from us today! Many were speculating about who Jesus was, and they still do. As Jesus asked Peter, the penny dropped and he realised he had been with none other than the Son of God.

In some countries admitting you believe this could actually cost you your life, or at least make things pretty difficult for you. Jesus gave up everything for you and me, but He doesn't expect us to follow Him without first counting the cost (Luke 14:25–35). It's all too easy for us to make a purely emotional response to Jesus without truly considering if we are going to put our very lives into His care, no matter the cost. Perhaps this is why many of us don't follow through on the responses made when we were younger. Yet the grace of God is there for us to see it through now as we come to Him, having had that moment of realisation that He is the Christ.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Christ, the promised Saviour sent to die for my sins. Thank You that You have revealed this to me by Your Holy Spirit. Help me to live in the light of this, today and every day. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost' (Luke 19:10)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 19:1–10

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I am willing to put things right with anyone I have wronged

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I too want to welcome Jesus back into my life, even if it means change

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

My life needs to be centred around Jesus rather than Him centring His life around me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

All three parables Jesus told in Luke 15 – the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son – showed His concern for the lost. Surely, after the third story to prove this point, they and we would understand it! Not only did Jesus tell these stories to show this concern, but He also chose to use the title, 'Son of Man', over seventy recorded times in the gospels to show His identification with humanity. More than this, Jesus goes out into the world looking for lost people.

In Luke 18:18–27, we see that He encounters another lost person, a rich young man who is seeking to justify himself by his own actions. The young man can't quite see where he is lacking in his relationship with God but he knows something is missing. Sadly, he doesn't have a moment of realisation, but walks away, preferring instead to hold on to his own man-made solutions, giving only temporary satisfaction. How prone we are to 'barking up a wrong tree' – being in the wrong place, trying the wrong thing, getting a wrong answer! You name it, we've all done it in some way or another.

At other times we are 'up a gum tree' feeling completely stuck and searching for someone to help us. This was the situation in which Zacchaeus put himself. He had a good reason to go tree-climbing – he was short and he wanted to see Jesus. Sensible man, he climbed a tree looking for a Saviour! Jesus knew Zacchaeus' heart and despite the crowd, He stopped under the sycamore-fig tree, looking up and calling Zacchaeus down. This is a moment of realisation for Zacchaeus. He had been using his position as a chief tax collector to swindle people and was very wealthy, but he put his words into action (Luke 19:8). We are not saved through outward words but through inward change. Zacchaeus knew he needed a Saviour, he recognised Him, and what was lost was found. The Son of Man still looks out for the lost – good news indeed!

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord Jesus, thank You for looking out for me. Help me with all the changes I need to make in this life's journey. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"' (John 8:12)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read John 8:1–12

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I am willing for my investment plans and my sex life to be in line with God's will!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

Is it not a great relief that Jesus said to this woman caught in adultery,

'Then neither do I condemn you'? (v.11)

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

Can you see the link between leaving a life of sin and having the light of life?

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

In this extraordinary story we see Jesus on the side of the accused and defenceless woman. 1 John 2:1 describes one of the wonderful roles Jesus fulfils: 'But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins ...' Have you ever needed a defender like that? This Advocate is not only able to bring a reasoned case for our defence, but He is also the solution to our need. The accusations against us are fair enough – we cannot say that we have not sinned in various ways. We know that God tells us there is a due penalty for sinful disobedience: death and separation from Him. All this is fair, and yet ... He has paid the penalty for our sin in the death of His innocent Son on our behalf.

To know this is to know freedom, joy and new purpose. It is to be free from condemnation. Know this: Jesus is on your side as you look to Him for help in whatever situation you may be facing. Yesterday we saw one man hand his investment plans over to Jesus, and another hold on to them. Today we see a woman caught in adultery and about to suffer public shame and stoning. And yet Jesus intervenes to speak in her defence. The law said 'Stone her!' The critics said, 'We want justice!' But Jesus said, 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her' (John 8:7). Are there people you feel want to throw stones at you? Know this, you have someone who speaks in your defence: Jesus. But also hear what else He said: 'Go now and leave your life of sin' (v.11). Her life was spared but change was called for. Knowing the Light of the World brings us out of every darkness so that we can now walk in His light. It really is the safest place, so let's be done with the shadows.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord Jesus, You ask some big things of me but then You speak up for me in amazing ways – thank You. Help me by Your Holy Spirit to walk in the light with You. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

'... why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'  
(John 20:15)

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read John 20:10–18

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I have sometimes cried when Jesus seems far away

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

It is good to know that Jesus knows my name

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

I don't mind talking to other people about Jesus

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**



## PLUG IN:

Tears have a place in our lives – God made us with the ability to grieve. If we suppress our sorrow, we may miss the opportunity for an encounter with Jesus. Mary had come looking for a 'dead Jesus' but she didn't find one! Instead, she found two angels who asked her why she was crying. You might think it was pretty obvious, but clearly they knew something she didn't! Jesus was right behind her, alive and well! Peering through her tears she doesn't recognise Him – a case of mistaken identity.

Even when Mary heard Jesus speak she thought He was the gardener, because she was expecting to find a corpse, not a renewed, living relationship. The moment of realisation came as she heard Jesus use her name, and then she cried out with wonder and delight. Mary now had a living Saviour to hold onto instead of a dead corpse. Maybe your earlier 'Christian' days had a deadness about them, maybe it was even a dead religion you were following rather than experiencing a living relationship.

Jesus doesn't literally appear in His risen body to us these days, although some do have visions of Him. Yet He still reveals Himself to us through His Holy Spirit, who is the member of The Trinity at work in the world today. One of the things He does is to bring inner conviction to us of our wrong-doings and of our need for Jesus. When this happens, tears will often come. They are a sign of deep inward sorrow and desire for renewal of relationship with Jesus through forgiveness. No genuine sorrow, no genuine repentance! Once the good news is received, Mary is off to tell her friends. What stage are you at? Sorrow, recognition, repentance, or off to your friends with the good news?



## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord Jesus, help me to grieve for my wrong-doing and to recognise Your work in my life. I am looking for You. Please do a deep on-going work in me by Your Holy Spirit so that my relationship with You will be restored. Amen.*



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight' (Luke 24:31)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 24:13–35

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I can think of times when I have walked away in doubt and fear

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

Sometimes my heart burns within when I sense Jesus is near

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I do not always 'get it' when God speaks, but I'm looking and listening

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

In a strange way it's encouraging when you read of the disciples being frightened, downcast or failing Jesus in various ways! Why? For two reasons: firstly, He never abandoned them, but always went after them; and secondly, we're the same! The two disciples on the Emmaus road had started off well, but their grasp of the mission of Jesus was at best sketchy and at worst a past hope – 'we had hoped' (v. 21). They heard that others had seen, but they identified with those who hadn't seen and were walking away from Jesus, from His mission and the power He promised He would send them if they didn't leave Jerusalem, but waited in faith.

How does Jesus meet them? He meets them where they are, walking away. He joins them. He gets them to tell Him their problems and doubts. He doesn't judge them or leave them in their doubt, though He shows He fully understands their limitations. He goes on to spend more time with them and patiently teaches them. All the while, the two disciples are being encouraged and their inner beings are stirred. Asking Him to stay longer, Jesus agrees because He knows this will bring the moment of realisation they need.

It is in the breaking of bread that Jesus reveals Himself to them and they finally recognise Him. Today we still have the opportunity for such precious moments of recognition in breaking bread and drinking wine. These two simple acts join us by faith to Jesus. Think about all these things and consider if you are ready to commune with Jesus. Taking bread and wine is a great way for sinners like us to reconnect.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord, thank You for the way You have shown Yourself to me on my Emmaus road – now I want to walk with You with renewed hope and purpose. Amen.*



## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you"' (Luke 24:36)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 24:36–49

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I want to bring my fears and doubts to Jesus

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

I need my mind to be opened by Jesus so I can 'understand the Scriptures'

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

If Jesus wants to 'clothe' me with power from on high, I want that too

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**



## PLUG IN:

A ghost is different from a resurrected body – Jesus proved this to the disciples. He came and stood among them, a frightened group of ordinary people like you and me. Hiding away in a locked room, they needed something like this and Jesus knew it. He showed them His hands and feet. He ate some fish – not because he was hungry but to show them that He was not a ghost, but their friend and saviour Jesus, back from the dead, alive and very well! Doubts die in the presence of Jesus – that is still true today!

What evidence do you need to make you reconnect by faith to Jesus? How about an empty tomb? How about a group of frightened, doubting disciples who have lost their way, some walking away to other things? They were transformed – not by a ghost that couldn't eat, but by Jesus Christ back from the dead, just like He'd always said it would be. It was this changed community of men and women that Jesus called His Church, and He used it to turn the world upside down. A community of people connected to Him, to His mission and receiving His power.

What equivalent of 'broiled fish' do you need today? Don't expect Jesus to physically appear in front of you and eat fish and chips! In His resurrected body He is well able to eat such a calorific meal but, as you know, Jesus returned to His Father after His successful mission to earth. The mission? To die for sinners like us. On the cross He cried out, 'It is finished!' Mission completed, for you and me. Now risen, the next time He comes to earth in His resurrection body will be to take those who trust in Him home to be with Him forever. Meanwhile, wait for His power – there are no ghosts to fear.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*So Lord Jesus, You really are raised! Help me to grasp this and fill me, too, with excitement and joy in what You have done. I do want to be clothed with power from on high – send Your Holy Spirit to me that I may know You more. Amen.*



## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it' (John 20:25)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read John 20: 24–31

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Sometimes I feel I've missed out when I compare my experiences with those of others

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I have not seen, yet I believe Jesus Christ is risen from the dead

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I want to doubt my doubts and live my life believing my beliefs!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

You have to feel sorry for Thomas! No one hates to miss out, particularly if you are the only one. How do you feel when someone else tells you of a spiritual experience they have had with God that you have not experienced? Jesus doesn't seem to think Thomas was at a disadvantage, or that it was unfair that he hadn't seen Him, though clearly that is how Thomas was feeling. There is a sobering thought here – Jesus sees us and hears us even though we don't see Him.

Think back to times when you've had a conversation with God or with others about God, but haven't thought He was listening. He misses nothing! God knows everything we say, think and do. Sometimes our words come back to haunt us. Perhaps this is how Thomas felt when Jesus appeared to him a week later. Somewhat shame-faced, Thomas hears the loving word of reproof: 'Stop doubting and believe' (v.27). And his response to this moment of realisation is spot on – Thomas worships the One now revealed as 'My Lord and my God!' (v.28). The change in Thomas is strong evidence of the grace of God and of the resurrection of Jesus.

When God reveals His love in your life, His awesome power through nature or His providence for you, recognise Him and worship Him. Ask for eyes to be able to see how He chooses to reveal Himself at this point in history – the birth of a child, a beautiful sunset, answered prayer, the sound of laughter, the gathered church community, music on the radio, the wind on your face, bread and wine. If we have eyes to see, we will see. If you want to see God at work just look around – better still, visit your church!

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*My Lord and my God, I worship You. Help me to use my eyes to see You in all of Your creation. Thank You that You are involved in all that You have made and that You are still at work in me. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 9:17)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Acts 9:1–19

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I have sometimes had harsh thoughts about other Christians, or given them a hard time

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

It's amazing that Jesus would speak to me after the many times I've ignored Him

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

I know I can talk to Jesus – I do every day in prayer

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**



## PLUG IN:

Thankfully, it's not often that you come across someone who hates Jesus and His followers as much as Saul did. But sadly there are some people who do. Note that Jesus still loves them just as He loves us – He died for sinners, and that includes all of us. Saul was so extreme that he was hunting Christians down to imprison and execute them. Is it not extraordinary that Jesus dealt with Saul in this way? Appearing as a bright light, having a two-way conversation with him and blinding him only to miraculously restore his sight? God deals with us all as individuals – he does not see us as a 'job lot'.

Then another man has a vision and is sent to Saul with a message! What extreme lengths Jesus went to, and all because He wanted to show Himself to Saul, a man who subsequently described himself as 'the worst of sinners'. Of all people, Jesus chose Saul to be a 'chosen instrument' to carry the Good News not just to the Jews, but also to non-Jews for the first time – what a privilege! Yet a few rough edges had to be knocked off along the way – the journey was not just to Damascus, it was a completely new journey that Saul began, and has given us yet more strong evidence for the resurrection.

Saul's name was changed to Paul after his conversion and God used him to bring the astonishing truth of what it is to be connected to Christ. Paul describes this as being 'in Christ' – a phrase he uses eighty times as shorthand for a glorious truth. God took this rough diamond and transformed him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul's humble response was to be baptised, symbolising the end of the old Saul and his new life in Christ. What is your response?

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord Jesus, please keep revealing Yourself to me and keep me responding to You in the right way. Help me complete my journey with You in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.*







## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you' (Luke 11:9)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Luke 11:1–13

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I need to learn to ask God my Father for the good things He has for me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

If Jesus says it, it's true – I choose to believe it and that settles it!

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

Think about one, or at most two, things for which you want to ask God and that He would be pleased to give you

**Write one of them down:** .....

**Now ask Him!**

## PLUG IN:

Yesterday, we saw how fiery Saul became on fire Paul. This work of transformation is a deep inward work. It means an inward journey to the centre of the soul, where the real you is to be found. When a person dies there is apparently a weight loss of 21 grams. Whether or not the soul can be weighed we will not know this side of heaven ...! What matters is that the real you, your soul, finds connection with Christ. Paul was found by Christ and was evidently in shock for three days – the Holy Spirit was given to him for the inward journey.

Have you made the inward journey? Until your soul has been touched by the Holy Spirit you cannot begin the outward journey. If by now you know you are 'in Christ', then the Holy Spirit has been at work – it is He who is the breath of God blowing within us to bring life. We'll think about His work tomorrow. For now, think about the privileges of being a child of God. Jesus teaches that you can pray to God and call Him 'Father'! Consider the elements of this prayer that Jesus has given us – worship, thanks, confession and requests. Note that it's a daily prayer!

If your inward life was a landscape what would it look like? Is it a place of beauty, designed with heaven in mind? Or are there things you'd rather people didn't see? Jesus tells you to ask for His Spirit – He will come and do a big clean-up operation if you invite Him. Let the inward journey to the centre of your soul begin today, so that you can live your outward journey in His power, with His Holy Spirit.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*My Father in heaven, I worship You and pray that Your Kingdom would come in and through my life. Thank You for every blessing You give to me. Please fill me with Your Spirit – I ask this because Jesus said I could. Amen.*

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you' (John 16:7)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read John 16:5–33

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I want the Holy Spirit to do a deep inward work in me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

In Jesus I can have peace, because He has overcome the world

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

The Spirit of truth will guide you in every area of your life – just ask Him

**In which main area do you want His help? Write it down:**

**Go ahead and ask!**



## PLUG IN:

In case you'd wondered where Jesus came from, He tells you – from the Father. He came at a point in history to a people and a place – He changed history with HIS STORY. His plan is that you would become part of His on-going story. The disciples had still not quite understood the enormity of all this. They'd grasped that Jesus was the Son of God, but they still hadn't 'got' His plan to rescue them through His death, thus bringing them into the family of God. So Jesus introduced them to the third Person of the heavenly family – the Holy Spirit.

It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we understand our sin and need of a Saviour. He softens our hearts, removes the scales from our eyes, shows us our guilt-stained lives and reveals Jesus to us. The Holy Spirit's work is so magnificent that Jesus tells the disciples it is to their advantage that He return to the Father, as then the Spirit will be sent to them and their grief will turn to joy.

Slowly the penny drops and the disciples 'get it!' 'You believe at last!' said Jesus to them (v.31). How we must try His patience! It's a good job there is an unlimited supply within the time frame of our lives. At this point in the story we can be in no doubt that Jesus left the world to return to His Father and has now sent His Spirit as the 'Implementer'. Ask Him to coach you and give you strength for the journey. There is no better mentor for your life than the Spirit of God Himself. We will have trouble in this world, but we can take heart because Jesus has overcome the world and makes us overcomers too.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Lord Jesus, thank You that in a little while we will see You face to face. Come to me by Your Holy Spirit and make Your home with me in my inner being. Amen.*





## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.  
Now remain in my love' (John 15:9)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read John 15:1–17

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

I do not want to be like a branch that is cut off

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I can honestly say that I feel the love of Jesus and am remaining in His love

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

I want to bear fruit for Jesus, even if it means loving others as He loves me

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## PLUG IN:

Imagine that your inward life was like an orchard! Would you say that the orchard has been tended by The Gardener, or has it become overgrown and more like a wild forest? Over time wild forests become wildernesses where there is unruliness, unquantified danger and a randomness that robs potential. Our lives need to be tended by the Fatherly gardener, who deals with each one individually so that we realise our full fruit-bearing potential. Jesus brings us the picture of being connected to Him as if we are the branches and He is the vine. It is a powerful illustration of the life and fruitfulness that comes through being one with Him. In Christ, we will bear much fruit, but apart from Him, like dead branches, we will bear nothing.

The difference between you and the branch of a real tree is that, in this spiritual metaphor, you are a branch with a choice. 'Neither can you bear fruit *unless* you remain in me' (v.4, my italics). Think about that word *unless*. It is conditional, and our choice determines the outcome. Remaining in the love of Jesus is to do with remaining in love with Him – this is a relationship of love, enjoying Him and bringing joy to Him as you live for Him and not for self.

If you are 'in Christ' you are called to be in His love. Being 'in Christ' speaks of the profound joining that happens when you connect to the person of Jesus – because you connect with Him, you connect with His mission and His power. Bearing fruit as a disciple of Christ then becomes something that *will* happen – just as a light will go on if you plug in a correctly wired lamp. Over the next few days, we will look at what such a connection means for your life.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Father God, thank You that You are The Gardener of my life. I trust You with the pruning shears and ask You to shape me as You know best. I choose to remain in Your Love. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

# RUNNING THE RACE



**TRUTH IN CHRIST:**

*'Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness' (Heb. 12:10)*

**POWER IN CHRIST:**

Read Hebrews 12:1-13

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1-10 (1 = disagree, 10 = agree):

I see discipline is the sign of a loving Father when done properly, and I am open to God on this

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I want to share in the holiness of God and can see that this means some of my old 'stuff' needs to be cut off like dead branches

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

A harvest from my life of righteousness and peace sounds good – I now need to think about how this will be lived out

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

**BLUE**

PERSONAL ISSUE

**BROWN**

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

**EARTH**

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



## PLUG IN:

There are times when everyone in Christ feels weary and loses heart, so you have not been alone! So what's the answer? Consider Jesus: He is the One described as the Author and Perfector of our faith. He began it, He inspired it, He gave it and He will sustain you and help you finish the marathon of this life. No short sprint this one, but a life of training and endurance through the twists and turns, the up hills and down hills.

God's plan for you is simple – He is bringing you to Himself, to be one with Him through His Son, who is bringing many sons to glory. This means that through life, just like everyone else, we will experience many things: birth, health, sickness, joy, success, failure, sorrow and death. Unlike everyone else though, those in Christ face them as children of the living God who helps us through every situation, using them to train us.

At the beginning of this 21-day reflection on your life we spent time thinking about identity, value and purpose. Now, as we come toward the end, the remaining days will take us through how we re-engage with life in the time left to us. If you are connected to Christ, God is committed to conforming you to the likeness of His Son. Discipline is part of this – but not random or rash discipline, rather that which is given by a caring Father who does it for your good because He loves you.

**SWITCH ON AND GO:**

*Father God, as I think about my life I can see that Your unseen hand has been there, even in the hard times when I thought You were off the scene. Thank You for Your commitment to me. I love you. Amen.*





## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption' (1 Cor. 1:30)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read 1 Corinthians  
1:18–2:5

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1–10 (1 = disagree, 10 = agree):

I am willing to submit my intellect and my need for miraculous signs to trusting God's wisdom and the signpost given in Christ

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

The cross may look a foolish solution in the world's eyes but I recognise it is the power of God in my life

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I want to use the intelligence with which I have been gifted to understand God's ways of dealing with His world and His people

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

## PLUG IN:

Many great intellectuals have trusted in Christ, as well as many with a few less grey cells! In fact, in His mercy God makes it easier for people with a simple outlook to grasp the truth of life in Christ. You and I may be a long way behind Einstein on the intellectual scale but Christians do not throw away their brains ... rather they begin to use them properly.

Paul was a great intellectual, but he was also a fierce opponent of Christ until that moment of realisation. Paul teaches us that we come out of the womb hostile to God because we have so identified with Adam's disobedience that it has affected every one of us. We have always been convinced we know better – our enemy, the devil, has played on our weakness from the moment in the Garden of Eden to the present day. The result of our sin was death and separation from God our Father.

Yet, it is God's master-plan to bring His solution to our problem in a way that is so simple, so undeserved and so humbling that the stubborn and proud will miss it unless we humble ourselves. Jesus, the mighty Son of God, humbled Himself by taking up the nature of a servant on this fallen earth and being willing to bear our curse on a cruel cross in the place of all who trust in Him. In so doing, He takes our curse and we enter into His blessing. This is God's mystery – and you can be part of it, in Christ.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Father God, thank You that it is because of You that we are placed into Christ – this is Your wisdom, that He would become our righteousness, holiness and redemption. I humbly receive this as Your child. Amen.*

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

# WELCOMED!



**TRUTH IN CHRIST:**

*'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand' (Rom. 5:1-2)*

**POWER IN CHRIST:**

Read Romans 5:1-11

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1-10 (1 = disagree, 10 = agree):

The punishment for my sinful disobedience is death, as I am unable to justify myself before a holy God

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

My peace with God comes because Christ stood in the gap for me and took my punishment upon Himself

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Suffering develops perseverance, character and a hope that will never disappoint

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

## PLUG IN:

Is it not amazing that it was while we were still repugnant sinners that Christ died for us? He didn't wait until we knew better – it would have been a long wait! God carefully explained how we should live – first to Adam, then to the Israelites and then to us. We are without excuse. Our position, with Adam as our representative head, is that we have fallen short of the glory of God and so receive the consequence of that, the penalty of death.

But in Christ, God offers us a completely new position! Paul explains it this way: 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive' (1 Cor. 15:22). Christ becomes the new 'federal head' for all who trust in Him as the One who died for them. In so doing, it's as if the condemned 'you' has been judged, found guilty and died with Christ. God raised Him on the third day, completely innocent and having dealt with all sin. As you are found in Christ, God will treat you in the same way. In Christ, you are justified, made new, with a new position and standing in grace – in other words, your slate has been wiped completely clean.

Has your position changed? Can you say you are 'in Christ' rather than 'in Adam'? It is this and only this that makes you a child of God – forget the title of Christian, which is so misused and abused. It was given as a derisory term to followers of Jesus at Antioch. Someone with faith in Christ is a child of God, a disciple of Christ.

**SWITCH ON AND GO:**

*Lord Jesus, the realisation that You absorbed my sin is awesome. Thank You for being my great High Priest, who stood in the gap for me, and that the Father now sees me differently because of You. Amen.*

**BLUE**

PERSONAL ISSUE

**BROWN**

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

**EARTH**

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



# FREE AS A BIRD!



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death' (Rom. 8:1)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Romans 8:1–17

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1–10 (1 = disagree, 10 = agree):

Christ has freed me from the Law of sin and death and I now live under the Law of the Spirit of life

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I died to the Law through the body of Christ and now belong to Him, so that I might bear fruit to the glory of God (Romans 7:4)

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I have to resist the power of my old sinful nature on a daily basis by reminding myself that Christ's work of grace gives me daily benefit

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

## PLUG IN:

You can see that to grasp what it is to be 'in Christ' is truly life-changing. You will not understand these things without the help of the Holy Spirit, so keep asking Him to help you to comprehend it. The more you get it, the more amazed you will be and the more you will fall in love with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who are all so active on your behalf. Such is the depth of our connection to Christ that Paul describes it as being baptised into His death. This is a picture of our 'condemned self' – that inner fortress of hostility to God – being crucified with Christ to break the slavery of sin.

Remind yourself every day that you are so identified with Christ that you live in a new position, in His power over sin and death. Paul teaches that we are given the Holy Spirit to continue the work that Christ began in us. The Holy Spirit goes on to 'sanctify' us – this means to set us apart for holy living, a process to bring us towards perfection. God is working to bring the likeness of His Son in us. It takes a lifetime and a willing life.

Have you taken on board that if you are 'in Christ' there is no condemnation for you – period! God has dealt fully and finally with all your sin. Now you are to live for the glory of your Father God as His child and a joint heir with Christ. This is why we shouldn't ever walk away from Him sensing condemnation, but come back and walk with Him in His light.

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Father God, thank You for Your amazing plan to draw me back to You and that You never give up on me but give me Your Spirit to help me. Amen.*



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom. 8:38–39)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Romans 8:18–39

## BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

In Christ, I know I do not have to fear anything, but can be confident in who He has made me, a child of God

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

I can now see the value God has placed on me in the giving of His Son so that I can be in His family

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**

## EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

I know that God has purposes for my life and I can join with Him to fulfil these for His glory

**Circle your answer:**      **Yes**      **No**      **Uncertain**



## PLUG IN:

These twenty-one days are almost over and you must line yourself up with the truths we have looked at. There are some vital landmarks for you in this passage. Yes, be prepared for suffering – it is not an easy life free from problems. That lie from the devil has disorientated many. Fallen creation is groaning and we are all affected by that until we receive our new bodies.

God gives you the right to call Him 'Father' and, in Christ, you can approach Him with confidence at any time. He wants you to spend your life with Him as His child now, not at some unspecified time in the future. The rest of your earthly life is now an adventure to spend living with Him – you doing your best in the strength of His Spirit, but knowing that His best is good enough for your worst, in and through Christ's work.

You are God's workmanship and He has things He has prepared in advance for you to do with Him and for Him. Every time you get it right, it's as if He punches the air and says, 'Look at my child! Well done!' Every time you fail, He's got it covered and has better plans for you if you will persevere. Nothing can separate you from the love of your Father God – nothing. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are all working on your behalf, so co-operate with them!



## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Wow Lord! Do You really love me this much? Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I give myself to worship You and live for You this and every day. Help me bring You some joy today. Amen.*



## TO THE GLORY OF GOD!



## TRUTH IN CHRIST:

*'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes' (Eph. 6:10–11)*

## POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Ephesians 6:10–18

## CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1–10 (1 = disagree, 10 = agree):

I now realise that as a Christian I am engaged in a daily struggle with the enemy of God

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I can be strong 'in the Lord' whenever there is a personal attack on me

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

I have a responsibility to put on the full armour of God each day and I choose to do so, today

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST  
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE  
OF LOVE AND  
SERVICE

## PLUG IN:

Being connected to Christ is the abundant life but it also means you have a powerful enemy in the devil, that fallen angel who detests God's creation and His people. Yet God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have this covered too – you have every blessing and protection in Christ. Spiritual armour is given to protect you, but you must 'put it on', every day. 'In Christ' you cannot lose because He has already won the battle on your behalf.

Here's how the armour works: the helmet of salvation keeps you strong in the knowledge you are saved; the breastplate of righteousness replaces your old sinfulness; the belt of truth tells you that you are in Christ; the shield of faith is thick enough to withstand any onslaught from the devil, even flaming arrows of doubt; your footwear enables you to move swiftly and lightly with the Good News, without stumbling; the sword is none other than the mighty Word of God against whom nothing can stand. On top of all this, you are given the Holy Spirit of God to fight alongside you.

When you feel weak, realise that this is because you really are in a battle. Being a Christian is no walk in the park; it is an epic journey across difficult terrain. Yet you will get through every day of the journey 'in Christ'. If you go into the day in your own strength, you're setting yourself up for spiritual failure and disappointment. Take ground for God today by living in this truth: 'I can do everything through him [Christ] who gives me strength' (Phil. 4:13).

## SWITCH ON AND GO:

*Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that because You went through the deepest conflict I can now take my stand against the devil's schemes today and every day in Your strength and mighty power. Amen.*

