

WEEK 1: THE FATHER'S LOVE

The Story of Tony Hoang

1. What is one thing that stood out to you in the video? Why?

2. Tony talked about his dad's drinking, violence and absence from the home and said this *"led me to look to other role models rather than my father."*

a) What is your experience of your earthly father, or father figure?

b) What are some things (or people), regardless of whether they are good or bad, that we may choose to influence us?

3. Read **Matthew 7:7-11**. This passage talks about God, our Heavenly Father, who is completely good and only longs to give good gifts to His children. What is your picture of God like?

4. Tony talked about his coming to faith in Jesus and he said, *"I asked God to forgive me, and asked Jesus into my heart. And in the instant, I started weeping and crying...I became that little boy again that just wanted that father...my Father in heaven came down and just said, 'Son, it's all going to be all right.'"*

Read **John 1:12-13**. Consider the following:

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

What does it mean to you to be called a child of God?

5. Tony's testimony includes examining where he stood with God, what he wanted for his life, and what it meant for God to adopt him as His child.

Where do you think you stand with God and why?

NEXT STEPS (*Make them personal and, if possible, measurable*)

a) What are your 'next steps' of faith coming out of today's episode?

b) What do you need to think or do differently to help those 'next steps' happen?

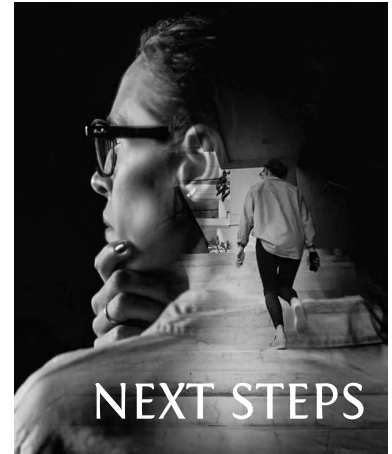
c) Consider who you could share those "next steps" with to help keep you on track.

FOR EXTRA READING & REFLECTION (*in your own time*):

Ephesians 2:1-22

Galatians 3:23-4:7

1 John 1:8-2:2



WEEK 2: NEW IDENTITY

The Story of Eloise Wellings

1. How did you go trying to implement some of your 'next steps' from last week?

2. What is one thing that stood out to you in the video? Why?

3. In this episode Eloise says, *"Not all of my problems just disappeared. My injury didn't get all of a sudden better, although it did over time. But it meant that in my heart, regardless of what happened in running, regardless of what happened with what I did, I was still loved and I was made whole. And I was given a new identity in Christ...It would free me up to do what I was passionate about and what he had given me the gift to do, without the threat of losing my identity each time I did that."*

What things, circumstances, thoughts, or people (either positively or negatively) affect your identity?

4. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.** Eloise's new identity is because, in Christ, she became a new creation. How does the knowledge that you are a new creation in Christ change your view of yourself?

5. Eloise came to have a change of allegiance. Her first 'love' became Jesus rather than her sport.

Read Philippians 3:4b-14 and then consider what Paul writes:

"Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ...I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ." (v7,8b)

What do you think that could look like in relation to your life and your journey of faith?

6. After following Jesus, Eloise didn't then miraculously win every race she entered.

Read Romans 8:28.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

How does this verse help us deal with our own wins or losses?

NEXT STEPS *(make them personal and, if possible, measurable)*

a) What are your 'next steps' of faith coming out of today's episode?

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c) Consider who you could share those "next steps" with to help keep you on track.

FOR EXTRA READING & REFLECTION *(in your own time):*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

James 1:19-27

Micah 6:8



WEEK 3: NEVER TOO LATE

The Story of Duncan Brown's Dad

1. How did you go trying to implement some of your 'next steps' from last week?

2. What is one thing that stood out to you in the video? Why?

3. Whilst growing up, Duncan's family faced financial hardship and in his early teens his parents parted ways. Reflect and consider any difficult events that you have gone through.

How have they shaped your thinking about God's character? Share with the group if you are comfortable doing so.

4. More than half of Australians (52%) are open, to some extent, to changing their religious views given the right circumstances and evidence (*Faith and Belief in Australia, McCrindle Research, 2017*). Do you know of someone who has come to faith later in life? What do you think finally compelled them to turn to Christ?

5. Duncan talked about his father's journey of faith and being baptised later in life.

a) What are some reasons people give for not making the public step of faith through baptism?

b) If you have already been baptised, what did it mean to you? *or* If you have not been baptised, would you consider it now?

6. Karl briefly mentions stories in the Scriptures about baptism:

Jesus' own baptism: **Matthew 3:1-17**

Jesus' instruction to baptise: **Matthew 28:18-20**

New believers are baptised: **Acts 8:26-40, Acts 9:1-19**

What do you think about baptism after reflecting on those passages?

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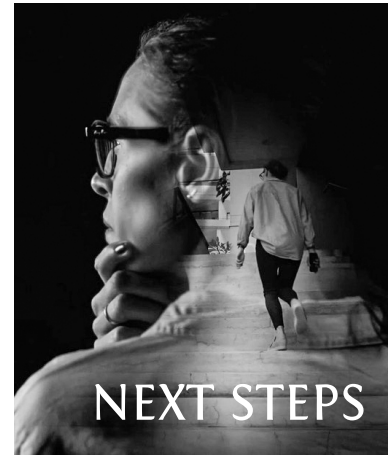
c) Consider who you could share those "next steps" with to help keep you on track.

FOR EXTRA READING & REFLECTION *(in your own time):*

Acts 16:16-34

Galatians 3:26-29

Joel 2:12-13



WEEK 4: SOMETHING DEEPER

The Story of Gemma Bell

1. How did you find trying to implement some of your 'next steps' from last week?

2. What is one thing that stood out to you in the video? Why?

3. As a young girl, Gemma found reading Psalm 23 helped her.

Read Psalm 23. Which one part, line, or word, does God seem to highlight for you? Why?

4. In December 2022, the Australian Community Survey (2022 ACS) released the following statistics:

* 4 in 10 (42%) Australians would go to an Easter service if invited, particularly if invited by someone they knew and trusted.

* 18% of people who call themselves atheists said they would accept an invitation.

a) Do you feel comfortable asking friends/family to church?

b) Can you naturally talk about your faith with family and friends? What advice could you offer someone who is less confident to do so?

5. Read **Matthew 25:31-46**. Jesus makes a connection between faith and serving others. What part are you encouraged by and what part are you challenged by?

6. In response to a discussion with her bible study group on Jesus' interaction with the marginalised of His time, Gemma came away looking for something deeper. She thought "*I don't think we do live this way. I think we're actually quite protected and safe.*" That realisation led her and her family to move into a full time role serving at-risk youth.

In what ways do you think you could live a less 'protected and safe' life and serve your local community?

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EXTRA READING & REFLECTION *(in your own time):*

Luke 10:25-37

James 2:14-26

Acts 4:1-31