



**EMBODIED**  
**TERM 2 BIBLE STUDY BOOK**

# BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 2 2023

## - **EMBODIED** -

Study #	Title	Page #
	Acts Bible Reading Plan	3
	<i>Embodied - Introduction &amp; Resources</i>	4
Study 1	Created	6
Study 2	Male and Female	9
Study 3	Finite	13
Study 4	Redeemed	17

# Bible Reading Plan

Not sure what to read this term? Haven't found a rhythm so far this year?? Join us in reading through Acts this term as we head towards our 'In Community' and 'Global Missions Week' series. What better way to think about Church and Mission than to see how they begun!

	<b>May 1st-7th</b>		<b>May 8th-14th</b>
	Acts 1:1-11		Acts 3:1-10
	Acts 1:12-26		Acts 3:11-26
	Acts 2:1-13		Acts 4:1-22
	Acts 2:14-28		Acts 4:1-23-37
	Acts 2:29-47		Acts 5:1-16

	<b>May 15th-21st</b>		<b>May 22nd-28th</b>
	Acts 5:17-41		Acts 8:1-25
	Acts 6:1-15		Acts 8:26-40
	Acts 7:1-19		Acts 9:1-22
	Acts 7:20-38		Acts 9:23-42
	Acts 7:39-60		Acts 10:1-16

# Embodied

## What does God have to say about our bodies?

As covid lockdowns were lifted and we were finally allowed to gather together again (to 'church' in the language of the NT) a question arose for many of us: "Why should we?" Why should we haul our bodies out of bed, feed them, dress them and get them to the church on time? Why seat them next to other bodies or make them stand and sing? Why expose them to the danger, the discomfort and the inconvenience of physically gathered worship?

For me, at least, the answers to these questions did not seem immediately obvious. Sure I could think of some practical reasons gathering physically produced better outcomes for me: better concentration and participation, more engagement from the young and more opportunities for practical love and service. But each of these could easily be countered by those who found concentration and engagement far easier at home on the lounge or who had ways of caring that did not require physical presence.

The answers were not immediately obvious because we haven't spent much time thinking biblically about our bodies. Sure, we think plenty of thoughts about our bodies. We compare them to other bodies, their lack of ability frustrates us and their declining health scares us. Our world has a strange relationship with bodies. On one one hand our world treats them as EVERYTHING: our status decided by their beauty, our value by their ability and our visibility declining as our bodies decline. On the other hand our world can treat our bodies as NOTHING: just matter to be manipulated and changed to suit our true inner sense of self. But we don't often think biblically about our bodies.

The stark fact to begin with is that we are created bodies. God could have made us disembodied spirits. He could have made us brains-in-jars. But he made us bodies. And more than that, he made us unique bodies of a variety of different shapes and sizes and colors. According to the bible, we don't HAVE bodies, we ARE bodies.

Wonderfully, the bible has a great deal to say about our bodies and this term we are going to take 4 weeks to hear God speak, through the bible, about our bodies.

I imagine there will be many topics that arise that we'll feel need more than the 4 weeks we've allocated. These will differ from group to group, and below you'll find some resources for specific topics. There will also likely be a bunch of questions that you might feel your group hasn't quite resolved. At the end of each study you'll find a QR code that will allow groups to submit questions to the ministry team so that we can address them in sermons, Q&A or specific teaching nights through the rest of the year.

## Resources:

### **General**

*What God Has to Say about Our Bodies* by Sam Allberry

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/tgc-podcast/god-cares-body/>

*You: An Introduction* by Michael Jensen

### **Sex, Gender and Transgender**

*Embodied* by Preston Sprinkle

*God's Good Design* by Claire Smith

*The Manual* by Al Stewart

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/beautiful-complementarity-male-female/>

<https://andrewerrington.wordpress.com/2012/05/10/my-talk-on-gender-at-sydney-uni/>

<https://www.christoncampuscci.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CCI-%e2%80%94-Responding-to-the-Transgender-Revolution.pdf>

### **Bodies in the new creation**

*Surprised by Hope* by Tom Wright

# Embodied Study 1: Created

## Talk

- 1) Imagine you were speaking on the phone to someone you have never met. They say “tell me about yourself. Help me to get to know who you really are”. Admittedly, they sound a bit creepy. But, for the sake of the study introduction, what do you say? How would you introduce the ‘real you’?

## The Body: Made by and for God

- 2) Have a read of Psalm 139. What fundamental truths about our bodies does this song teach us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Have a read of Genesis 1:26-31. How do our bodies connect with our God given vocation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) In what situations might this understanding of our bodies be encouraging or helpful for people?

## The Body: You are more than flesh and bone

- 5) Read Genesis 2:4-7 and Matthew 10:28. Is there more to us than our physical bodies?

6) Are our bodies, then, just a costume worn by our souls? Are they like a car driven by our souls? Consider the passages we have already read and also 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

## The Body: To be enjoyed with thanksgiving

7) With our bodies we touch, taste, hear, smell and see. With our bodies we run, hug, dance, swim and sleep. How do the following verses help us live our embodied lives with wisdom?

a) Colossians 2:20-23.

b) 1 Corinthians 6:12-13.

c) 1 Timothy 4:1-4



### **Got any questions?**

Ask them here and we'll follow some of them up in a Q&A during services in term 1.

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Please pray for Brett as he seeks to encourage, serve and build up the wider staff team. Pray for wisdom that he and the team develop ministry plans that will help St Luke's stay faithful and grow into the future.

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra, Joanna and Samuel and their mission work to an unreached people group in South East Asia.

Bring before God those who are physically or mentally ill, grieving or experiencing financial hardships.

Please pray that the way we welcome people would encourage them to seek Jesus and make St Lukes their home. Pray that we would continue to connect with hospitality and warmth.

Pray for our seniors as the minister and care for those around them and share the love of Jesus with those in their lives. Pray also for those who live in residential villages and the strong witness they provide to their neighbours.



# Embodied Study 2: Male and Female

## Talk

- 1) Imagine you are back on the phone with our friend from last week (see study 1 question 1) and they confess to being an alien. They have heard our species has men and women, a concept quite foreign to them as they are an asexual brain in a jar.
  - They would like you to describe men and women. How would you do so?
  - Now imagine you carry the brain-in-a-jar on a bit of an excursion so they can observe men and women for themselves. What differences do you think our alien friend would notice first? How does that line up with your previous descriptions?

## Created Man and Woman

- 2) Have a read of Genesis 1:26-31. What do we learn about the creation of men and women, their value and their vocation?
  
- 3) Have a read of Genesis 2:4-25. Here we have a zoomed-in account of the creation of Adam and Eve and Eden. It is at once a picture of the first marriage (Adam and Eve) and the first sacred worship space (Eden). How is it similar to Genesis 1? What additional information is found here?

## Created Male and Female

- 4) As we've moved through these passages we've moved from the physically determined categories of sex (male and female) to what our age might call the culturally determined categories of gender (man/masculinity and woman/femininity). That is, from the bodily determined biological reality of maleness and femaleness, to the social significance of male-female sexual difference. The bible doesn't separate

sex and gender in the way modern society does. In fact, no one separated the two in any systematic way until the late 1960's. But nonetheless, what does the bible have to say about the way we express and perform our biological sex?

- Have a read of Galatians 5:19-26. What different commands are given to men? What commands are given to women?
  
- In what ways do we see God's word offering freedom from gender based social expectations?
  - Mark 10:38-42 (cf 1 Timothy 2:11)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Matthew 28:5-7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 Timothy 2:8-10
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 1 Timothy 5:1-2

- Ephesians 5:25-27

- Ephesians 6:4

- Have a read Titus 1:5-9, Ephesians 5:21-33 and 1 Corinthians 11:13-16. In what realms do we find a continued embrace of gender based social difference?

## Better Together

5) The New Testament is full of women and men contending for the gospel together. A quick scan of Romans 16 offers a picture of men and women partnering together for the glory of Jesus.

- Men, how can you be a more encouraging brother-in-Christ to the women in your life?
  
- Women, how can you be a more encouraging sister-in-Christ to the men in your life?



### **Got any questions?**

Ask them here and we'll follow some of them up in a Q&A during services in term 1.

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as she ministers and cares for the people who attend the Thursday Service. Pray for her as she continues to pray and care for those who are unable to attend due to health.

We pray for Ministry Trainee Matt Peck, working alongside Sam.

Pray for the Sparks Family and their mission work making disciples in Spain.

Pray for our Prime Minister and government. Pray for our state and federal members, our Premier and government. We pray also for our local Council including our Mayor.

Pray for christian teachers in the public school sector, as they strive to educate and care for their students with the love of Jesus always on display in their lives.

# Study 3: Finite

## Talk

- 1) What was the last injury you had? What were the emotions you remember feeling when it happened and later as you were treated and even later as you began recovery?
- 2) In what ways does our modern world seek to quarantine the unpleasantness of sickness, injury and death from everyday experience? Why?

## Futility

- 3) Over the last few weeks we've read much about the wonder of being embodied. But for many of us (those with chronic pain, those on the other side of 40 for instance) having a body is not a source of wonder and joy but pain, frustration or shame. Have a read of some of the passages to speak to this condition: its origins, extent and purpose.

- Genesis 2:25-3:24

- Romans 8:18-25

## Sin and Death

- 4) Not only does our body feel the effects of sin and the curse, but seems to be the location we most often see sin's power and control over us. How does Romans 7:21-24 and Galatians 5:16-17 speak to this experience?

- 5) “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,...so death spread to all men because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12) Spend some time reading Psalm 90. How does it speak of sin and death? What images are particularly striking? Why would anyone meditate on such a sad topic of their own death?

## The body of Christ

- 6) Have a read of Isaiah’s prophecy about Jesus (Isaiah 52:13-53:9). Which parts speak particularly to Jesus' bodily experiences. Why is this important and helpful for us to remember (cf Hebrews 4:15-16)?
- 7) What are the unique temptations faced by those suffering physically, experiencing chronic pain, experiencing disability or growing old? How can we encourage them and urge them on? How can we make sure we don’t turn our faces from them, as can be the case in society?



### **Got any questions?**

Ask them here and we'll follow some of them up in a Q&A during services in term 1.

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Colin as Office and Site Manager. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as he looks after staff and the Church site.

Pray for Theyn our Finance Officer that she would bring Glory to God in their work.

Pray for Lisa as Admin Assistant, as she looks after the administration of the Church.

Pray for Sarah and husband Tim and Lizzy and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

Pray for our witness to our local community – especially as more units are developed and more people move into the area. Pray for opportunities to connect with our community.

Pray for our craft group that meets on Wednesday. Praise God for the amazing opportunity they have to share the gospel while crafting.

# Study 4: Redeemed

## Talk

1) When you think about heaven, do you have a body? Why or why not? What is it like?

## Bought for a Price

2) We have considered the wonder of having a body and the wonder of having gendered bodies. We have also spent some time thinking about the reality of having finite, frail and aging bodies and the pain that can bring. Now let's think through Jesus' redemption of our bodies. Spend some time in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. What does it have to say about the bodies of those united to Jesus?

## A living Sacrifice

3) "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." (Romans 12:1). In view of all that Jesus has done for us, we offer our bodies to him. Bodies, in this verse, is a way of speaking about our whole selves. It is more than just our physical selves, but it is certainly not less. What role does your body play in your worship of God? You may wish to consider:

a) Romans 12:3-13

b) Ephesians 1:22-23



- 4) Worth noting in Romans 12:1 is that we are called to be a LIVING sacrifice. Why is this a very helpful word for all of us living busy lives and sometimes frantic lives?

## Raised with Him

- 5) Let's turn our eyes to the future when God makes all things new. What place do bodies have there? Where does Paul begin his consideration of this topic in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23?
- 6) But what will our bodies be like in the age to come? Have a read of 1 Corinthians 15:35-44.
- 7) Have a read of 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. How does this verse resonate with you? How does it particularly comfort those of us whose bodies frustrate us, hold us back or fill us with shame?



### **Got any questions?**

Ask them here and we'll follow some of them up in a Q&A during services in term 1.

### **Prayers**

---

We pray for Nicole & Luke Murray. Give Nicole creativity and enthusiasm as she pastors our Youth and Young Adults. We pray for Luke, as he seeks to bring community to our church.

Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Pray for Nonhlanhla Tshabalala, who is undertaking a ministry apprenticeship with Kylie Zietsch in women's ministry and pastoral care at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to church. Pray that God would be preparing the hearts of people we could invite to St Luke's.

Thank God for the outreach that occurs in Anglican Christian schools and retirement villages in our community who share the good news of Jesus with families who don't know Jesus.