



**living**  
CHRISTIANITY

**following Jesus in  
every area of life**

**study guide**

**"If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point."**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chronicles of the Schöenberg-Cotta Family, Elizabeth Rundle Charles, Thomas Nelson, 1864.

# Welcome to Living Christianity

a series of studies about God's  
calling for his people in the world

Over these 5 sessions we hope to get you to value the truth that following Christ **transforms** all aspects of our lives.

Christians are **new people** in Christ, with a new status and a new purpose. No longer under the power of sin, we have been transferred into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. In him we have **redemption** and **forgiveness** of sin. As followers of Christ we are called to **grow** in our love for him and for our fellow believers.

**Christ is Lord** in our family life, when we are at work, in our responsibilities as citizens, and much more besides. The Bible guides believers to seek a healthy church life, to spread the good news, and directs us to **live faithfully** in everything we do.

If we want to be faithful and effective Christian citizens, we need to pay particular attention to what it means to truly **engage** with wider society.

Our prayer is that through the course, you and your group recognise the implications of living as a Christian in today's world and become better equipped to live out your faith in **all areas of life**.



*"[Living Christianity] tackles many of the topics we don't invest much time in. This is a fantastic opportunity for us as churches, as small groups, as student groups to think about how we apply the Christian faith to the whole of life."*

Chris Sinkinson

*"A lot of Christians are losing their confidence and so are not actively engaging with the gospel and the idea that Jesus is Lord of all areas of life."*

Pete Nicholas

*"If we want to see our society impacted and transformed by the gospel, it's going to mean that we need to stand up and speak out and be involved."*

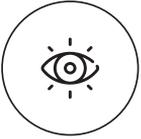
Michael Ots

*"This series is really important to help us think Christianly about lots of different issues without falling into one of two extremes - the 'holy huddle', and the unquestioning assimilation of our culture."*

Caz Dodds

*"The key purpose of this study series is to equip the Church, to help its young people, its students, all of us taking our place in wider society, to live the whole of life for God and to his glory."*

Richard Cunningham



# Living Christianity

## at a glance

**Living Christianity** consists of 5 studies, each lasting just over an hour. Each session has a video, Bible discussion and some time for prayer. It's aimed at groups and individuals who want to be equipped to engage our contemporary world.



**episode 1 concern for society** **p9**  
engaging with today's world  
as disciples of Jesus



**episode 2 christians and the world** **p15**  
holding a biblical view of the  
world and our role in it



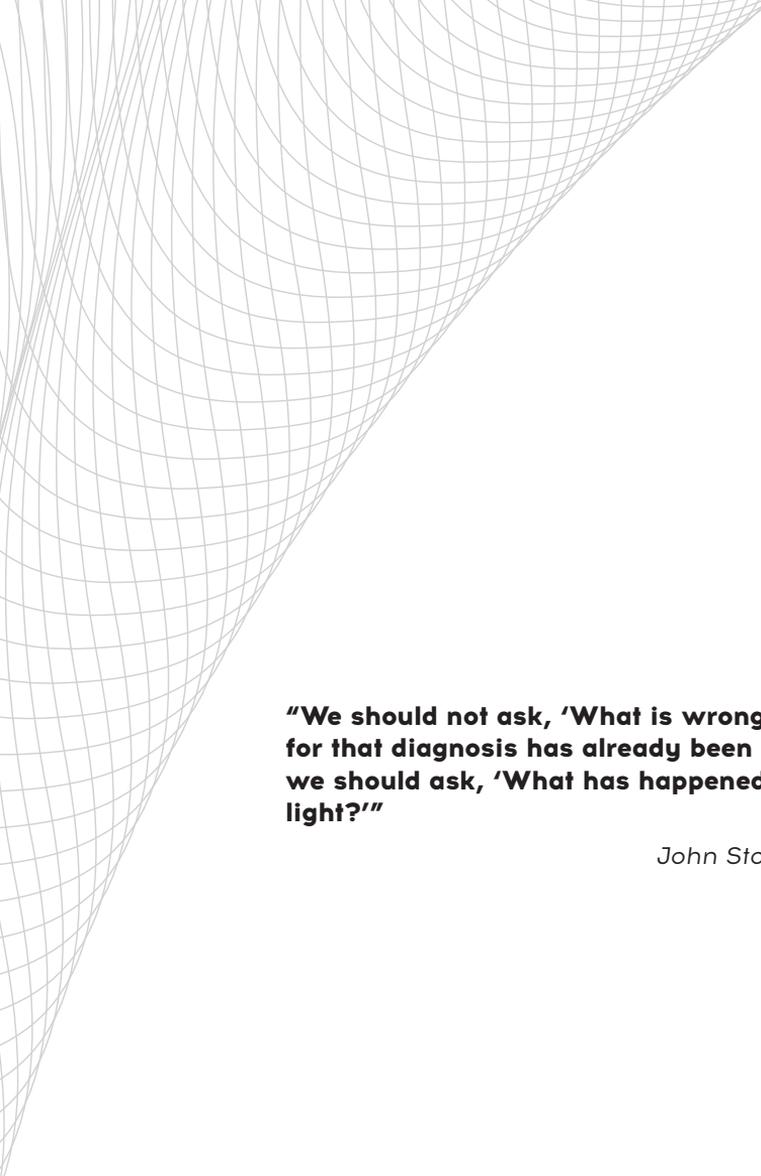
**episode 3 christians and work** **p21**  
getting clear on our calling to  
live as Christians at work



**episode 4 life, gender, marriage  
and family** **p27**  
valuing God's good design  
for all areas of life



**episode 5 christians as citizens** **p35**  
embracing our Christian  
citizenship in society today



**"We should not ask, 'What is wrong with the world?' for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, 'What has happened to the salt and light?'"**

*John Stott, pastor and author*



# concern for society

engaging with today's  
world as disciples of Jesus



## introduction

Do some areas of your life seem very obviously 'Christian', while in others your faith seems a lot less relevant? If so, you're not alone. Many Christians find it hard to see the everyday relevance of their beliefs beyond personal devotions, church life and evangelism.

But God never intended us to compartmentalise our lives like this. As Christians, we're called to live out our faith in Jesus in everything we do.

In this study series we will see that the God who created this world and will one day restore it, sends us out to serve him in all areas of life. God calls his people to live Christianly; engaging positively with society as active citizens.

In this first session, we will begin to look at what it means to be a full-time disciple of Jesus.



## session focus

Becoming a Christian transforms us; affecting *everything* we do.

# 1



## **getting started**

A friend asks you: 'What is the gospel?' What do you say?



## **watch episode 1**

 *Use this space if you'd like to make notes*



## read **Matthew 5:13-16**



## discuss

1. Jesus is speaking to his disciples (vv1-2). Why does he describe them as 'salt' and 'light'? Is it possible to be a Christian and not be salt and light?
2. What does this passage imply about the world in which we live? Why should Christians be concerned to have an impact on the world around us?
3. Who benefits when Christians live out their lives as distinctive salt and light?



7. In the past Christians have been at the forefront of the abolition of slavery, ending state-licenced prostitution, combatting poverty and homelessness, and championing racial equality and universal education.

Which areas of society do you think Christians need to have a biblical influence on today? What can you do to be a Christian influence – nationally and locally?



## pray

- bring to God any personal relationships where you would like to be ‘salt and light’
- pray for one or two of the areas you identified in question 7
- ask God to show you where you are not obeying “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27)



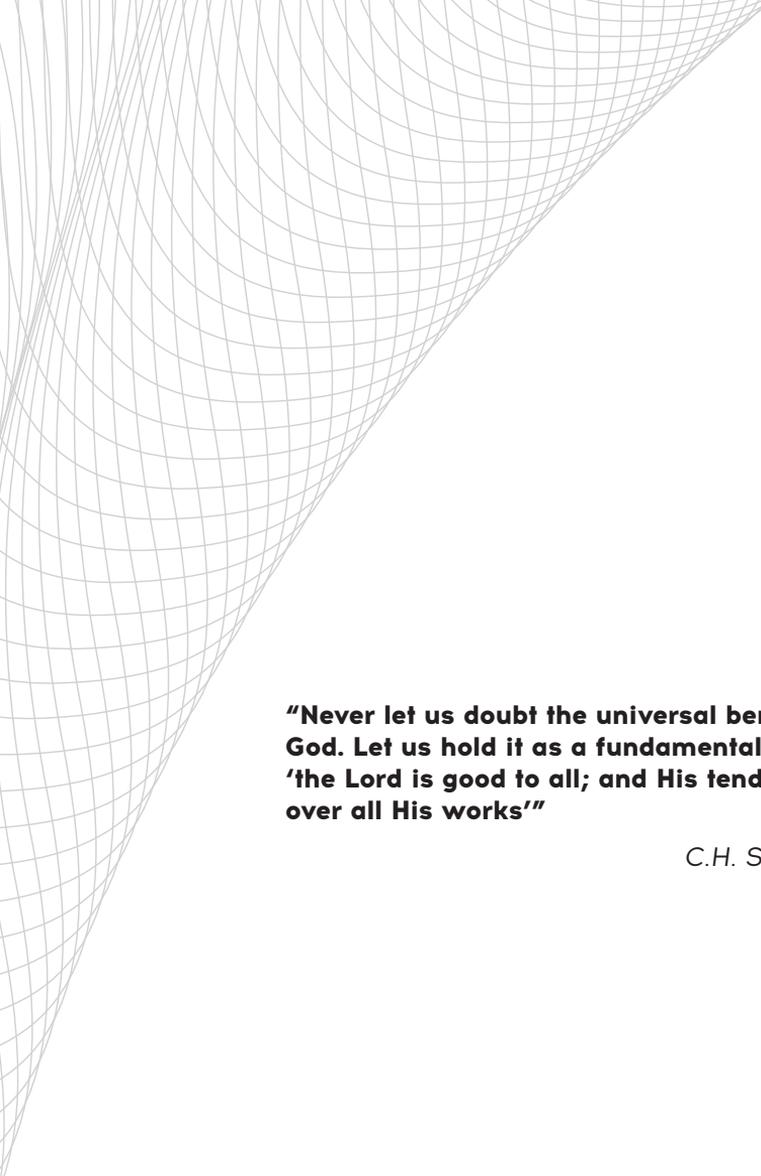
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## going further...

Would you answer the question: ‘What is the gospel?’ any differently now?

*Further reading:*

**Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age,**  
David Platt, Tyndale Momentum, 2017



**“Never let us doubt the universal benevolence of God. Let us hold it as a fundamental doctrine that ‘the Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works’”**

*C.H. Spurgeon, preacher*



# christians and the world

# 2

holding a biblical view of  
the world and our role in it



## introduction

The Bible, and our experience, clearly teach us the reality of sin. But it would be a big mistake to see the world only in negative terms.

God blesses his creation in all sorts of ways: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1), he “gives to all mankind life and breath and everything” (Acts 17:25), “All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD” (Psalm 145:10). There is still so much good in this fallen world!

Despite the terrible reality of sin, the Bible teaches that planet earth is also an exciting arena in which we really can serve and praise God. Being a Christian shouldn't narrow our vision of today's world. Rather, it should open our eyes to follow God's will in all of life.

And that's what we'll consider in this second study. Specifically we'll look at:

- the significance of humanity being made in the image of God
- how everyone is a recipient of God's 'common grace'
- how as Christians we have been made to do good works to the glory of God



## session focus

The Bible equips us with a positive vision of the world, for us to serve God in that world.