

Our Prayer for 2026: Dear Father, Help us to gather to proclaim Christ, and please use every LMAP member to play a part in bringing 20 people to faith in Jesus in each of our ministries and congregations across the year. To your glory. AMEN.

Gospel of John 1-4 Series Break-up

Purpose of the Series: The gospel of John was written to lead readers to faith. John 20:30-31 says: *“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* The purpose of this series is both a) evangelism of not-yet Christians and b) edification of Christians. As we examine Jesus’ words and works in his early ministry, listeners will be presented with reasons that they can believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah who gives them eternal life.

There is good reason for each of these talks to have a clear evangelistic focus.

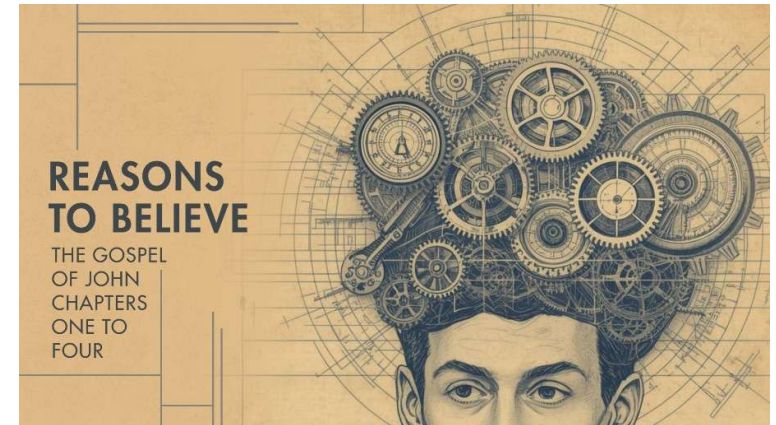
Marketing Title of Series: Reasons to Believe

Handout Blurb for the series: Why should anyone believe in Jesus? In the opening chapters of his Gospel, John invites us to discover compelling reasons for faith in Christ. In this series of talks on John chapters 1 to 4, we will unpack the early words and works of Jesus. Whether you’re exploring Christianity for the first time or looking to deepen your faith, you’ll hear Jesus’ claims about his identity, discover the good reasons to believe in him, and will be encouraged by the life he offers.

Series Champion: Paul Hallam

The Purpose of this Document:

- To instruct the **Gathering Leader, Kids Spot Speaker, Band Leader, Song Chooser** and **Preacher** in shaping each church gathering as whole – so that we intentionally draw out what we are looking at in the Bible each week. It will also mean, that particular features which complement what we do as a church, are addressed.
- To assist **Growth Group Leaders** and **Friday Youth Leaders** (and other ministry leaders) to arrange their program most logically and effectively to work in with the Bible Talk Series. And further to point to resources which can be used to lead groups well.
- To help the **Gathering Planners** (i.e. those who organise the rosters), **AV Ministry Team, Social Media**, and **Office** to have the information that they need to do the roles that they do most fruitfully and efficiently.



Talk No.	Preachers <i>(note: Master is the Google Drive Version)</i>	Passage	Reading	Talk Title <i>(marketing friendly)</i>	Talk Topic/Focus/Purpose	Comment/Outline	Gathering Googly <i>(feature/consideration)</i>
1. 28 th Dec Note: There is no GB10.30am or BL 4.30pm Gathering	GB9: KDN GB9am Kids Spot: NN MR9: DSw MR Kids Spot: DSw BL10:30: DSw GB6: KDN	John 1:19-51	Reading 1: John 1:19-34 Reading 2: John 1:35-51	Come and See!	<i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i> Central Theme: People come to follow Jesus through the personal invitation of those who know him. <i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want to encourage Christians to invite their friends to investigate Jesus at our gatherings and Seek Life nights. I want to encourage not-yet-Christians to keep coming to find out more.</i> <i>Note 1: The repeated use of the term ‘testimony’ (v19, 32) and the various ways that people speak of Jesus in this passage. (Idea: Gathering Leader to give their testimony during the gathering.)</i> <i>Note 2: There are many different titles used for Jesus in this chapter.</i>	Song Suggestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Creatures of our God and King Behold Him Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give thanks for 2025 Pray for 2026 	Note: No Kid’s Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs
2. 4 th Jan	GB9: NA GB9 Kids Spot: JE MR9: NL MR9 Kids Spot: VW GB10:30: NA GB10.30 Kids Spot: JE BL10:30: NL BL4:30: NA GB6: NL	John 2:1-25	Reading 1: John 2:1-12 Reading 2: John 2:13-25	Power to Transform	<i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i> Central Theme: Jesus reveals that he is the powerful Messiah who is bringing in the new age of God’s blessing. <i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want listeners to understand that Jesus offers for them to experience the blessings that he brings.</i> <i>Note: This is the Wedding in Cana (1st ‘sign’) passage – have some fun with the wedding theme!</i>	Song Suggestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ is Enough Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Services 	Note: No Kid’s Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs Lord’s Supper BL (KDN)

3. 11 th Jan	<p>GB9: PH GB9 Kids Spot: P&M Coghlan</p> <p>MR9: KDN MR9 Kids Spot: VW</p> <p>GB10:30: KDN GB10.30 Kids Spot: P&M Coghlan</p> <p>BL10:30: PH</p> <p>BL4:30: PH</p> <p>GB6: KDN</p>	John 3:1-21	<p>Reading: John 3:1-21</p> <p>Note: This reading would work well with a Narrator and Speaker</p>	The Way to Eternal Life	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: The only way to eternal life is to be born again by believing in Jesus, the Son who was sent by God to save the world.</p> <p><i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want the listener to understand the sharp truth of Jesus' words- they need to believe in Jesus to have eternal life otherwise they are condemned for refusing him.</i></p> <p><i>Perhaps – Pray and prayer of commitment</i></p>	<p>Note: Song Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man of Sorrows <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Federal (Susan Templeman)/State (Trish Doyle) and Local (Mark Greenhill) Politicians – gov't and opposition 	<p>Note: No Kid's Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs</p> <p>Lord's Supper GB6 (KDN)</p>
4. 18 th Jan Aboriginal Sunday	<p>GB9: GBH GB9 Kids Spot: Annie Swan</p> <p>MR9: NL MR9 Kids Spot: SOM Mission Spot</p> <p>GB10:30: NL GB10.30 Kids Spot: Annie Swan</p> <p>BL10:30: GBH</p> <p>BL4:30: GBH</p> <p>GB6: NL</p>	John 3:22-36	<p>Reading: John 3:22-36</p>	The One from Heaven	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: Even though it means that his ministry is eclipsed, John the Baptist lifts Jesus up in joyful testimony because Jesus is the Messiah from heaven.</p> <p><i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want the listener to understand who Jesus is and to make much of Jesus in their lives.</i></p> <p><i>See the final verse: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them (3:36)</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Other Name <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer for Acknowledgement of Country (see below) Giving toward Mission and Ministry at LMAP Pray for those heading to new churches (giving thanks for their ministry among us) 	<p>Note: No Kid's Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs</p> <p>Mission Focus: SOM (MR/BL10.30/BL4.30 - AC)</p> <p>Sending those leaving for new churches (GB6) – Matt Connor, Will Tupper</p>
5. 25 th Jan	<p>GB9: PH GB9 Kids Spot: SOM Mission Spot</p> <p>MR9: DSw</p>	John 4:1-42	<p>Reading 1: John 4:1-26 Reading 2: John 4:27-42</p>	The Saviour of the World	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: When Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman, she and many other</p>	<p>Song Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let Your Kingdom Come Come Let the Angels Sing <p>Prayer Points to include:</p>	<p>Note: No Kid's Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs</p> <p>Lord's Supper MR & BL4.30 (DSw – Note</p>

Australia Day Long Weekend	MR9 Kids Spot: Lord's Supper GB10:30: DSw GB10.30 Kids Spot: SOM Mission Spot BL10:30: PH BL4:30: PH GB6: DSw		Or...This reading would work well with a Narrator (male) and Speaker (woman)		Samaritans believe that he is the saviour of the world. <i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want the listener to understand that Jesus is the saviour of all people (not just some) and to encourage them to see the fields that are ready for harvest.</i> <i>Notice the direct claim in vv.25-26: 'I am he' (Messiah) and the recognition that comes in v.42 'this man really is the Saviour of the world'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and Students preparing to return to School LMAP Brekky Club 	the connection to the passage 'the living water') Mission Focus: SOM Profile (GB9/GB10.30/GB6 - AC)
6. 1 st Feb SRE Mission Sunday	GB9: KDN GB9 Kids Spot: SRE Teacher? MR9: PH MR9 Kids Spot: SRE Teacher? GB10:30: PH GB10.30 Kids Spot: SRE Teacher? BL10:30: KDN BL4:30: PH GB6: KDN	John 4:43- 54	Reading 1. John 4:43-54	Will You Believe?	<p><i>NOTE: School Holidays – sharp, visual and interactive!</i></p> <p>Central Theme: Jesus' signs provide reasons for belief. But the signs themselves do not necessarily lead to genuine faith.</p> <p><i>EVANGELISTIC Purpose: I want the listener to consider their response to what they have seen of Jesus and challenge them to genuinely believe in him.</i></p> <p><i>Great passage for SRE Sunday</i></p> <p><i>Note: This is the 2nd 'sign' passage.</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behold Him Undivided <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRE Teachers and Schools Julie Haddon and Josh Schroder LMAP Ministries starting up for the year in the coming weeks 	<p>Note: No Kid's Church (MR/GB) – Holiday Activity Packs</p> <p>Mission Focus: SRE at MR/GB9/GB10.30 (NA)</p> <p>Lord's Supper BL (KDN)</p>

Key: MR = LMAP Mt Riv; BL = LMAP Blaxland; GB = LMAP Glenbrook ;KDN = Ken Noakes; DSw = Dave Swan; RC = Rachael Connor; Paul Hallam; NL = Nick Lindeback; JH = Julie Haddon; GO = Gail Oakey; NA = Neil Atwood; TO = Trevor Oakley; JLav = John Lavender; JSh = Josh Schroder; OB = Olivia Bush; JB = Jared Bartlett; JE = Jake Evans; GBH = Gary Haddon; AC = Andrew Cox; PC = Phil Coghlan; BCA = Bush Church Aid; MTC = Moore Theological College; CMS = Church Missionary Society; DLS = Daylight Savings; YA = Young Adults; MARS = Mountains Anglican Refugee Support; WSU = Western Sydney Uni AFES Group.

Gathering Leader & Preacher:

- Take special note of the suggestions in the 'Gathering Googly' column. This detail should be kept in mind as you lead or preach.
 - Gathering leaders, *if scheduled into the elvanto plan*, you will need to make arrangements to incorporate this aspect into the gathering.

- Please note there is a visual Powerpoint template which we would prefer that you used so that we have some consistency across what we display (and so that we avoid some traps e.g. colours that cannot be seen, text too small, fonts too difficult, text which covers set logos, livestream split screen requirements etc.). This template exists in the 'G_Ministry (Visuals for LMAP Gatherings > 1. Gathering Visuals > 2. Slide Library (Where to look...) > Bible Talk Series Visual Templates > [this Bible Talk series Folder] - and can be emailed to you on request (admin@lmap.org.au) .

Devotionals or Bible Study *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders):*

- St Helen's Bishopsgate, *John*. READ/MARK/LEARN Series. Christian Focus Pub, 2008. Studies 1-5.
- Matt Olliffe, *Introducing Jesus: John 1-4*. Matthias Media, 2019 – 9 studies

Commentary suggestions *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders and Preachers):*

- Paul Barnett, *John – The Shepherd King*. Reading the Bible Today Series. Aquila Press, 2005.
- Bruce Milne, *The Message of John*. Bible Speaks Today Series. IVP, 1993.
- D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Eerdmans Pub, 1991.
- Andreas J. Kostenberger, *John*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Baker Books, 2004 (note: this is quite detailed)
- R. Kent Hughes, *John: That You May Believe*. Preaching the Word Series. Crossway, 1999.

Song suggestions *(for the benefit of Gathering Leaders & Song Choosers):*

In the Song Selections above – Josh Schroder should have been consulted as we have limited the range of songs that make up our LMAP Song list.

Band Leaders: Vincent Willard (MR9am); Michael Webb (BL10.30am); Jason Bryne (GB9am); Callum Beaton (BL4.30pm); Josh Schroder (GB6pm)

Copyright questions should be directed to Liz Thornton.

Prayer in Acknowledgement of Country

This prayer would be good to use on Aboriginal Sunday (18th January 2026)

Our Lord and loving heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are Creator of all that is. We acknowledge that in your Providence you gave custodianship of the land upon which we meet to the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We acknowledge with sorrow the painful history between the Aboriginal people and the later settlers of this land, and we pray that you may work between us for the réconciliation that is the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.