

WEEK 4 OF 5 · FIVE ANCHORS OF A DISCIPLE

ROOTED

Word-grounded

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

CASEY LIFE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH



Five Anchors of a Disciple

WEEK 1 **God-Loving** *Loved Into Loving*

WEEK 2 **Christ-Centred** *Not I, But Christ*

WEEK 3 **Spirit-Filled** *Not by might. Not by power. By His Spirit.*

WEEK 4 **Word-Grounded** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*

WEEK 5 **Disciple-Making**



OUR VISION · READ IT TOGETHER

**“To be a God-loving, Christ-centred,
Spirit-filled, **Word-grounded**, Disciple-
making church.”**



IN THE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Grounding

Feel your feet on the floor. Name five things you can see. Touch something solid.



A SOCIOLOGIST'S NAME FOR OUR TIMES

Liquid modernity

“Change is the only permanence, and uncertainty the only certainty.”

Zygmunt Bauman · Liquid Modernity



“To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul.”

Simone Weil · The Need for Roots, 1949



WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US

Enduring.

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God **will stand forever.**” — Isaiah 40:8*



“Let the word of Christ **dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”



Two words that change everything

ἐνοικεῖτω

“dwell”

en + oikos — literally, “to make a home in.” Not visit. Not lodge for the weekend. And it’s present tense: go on letting it live there.

πλουσίως

“richly”

Lavishly, abundantly — Colossians’ treasure-word (1:27; 2:2–3). A Bible can have an address in your life and no seat at your table.

The word of Christ isn’t asking for a visit. It’s asking for residence.



Why don't we engage with the Bible?

Nobody in this room is against the Bible. We just don't open it.



AMONG CHURCHGOERS — WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

1 in 3

Fewer than one in three churchgoers read the Bible daily. (US research)

Almost 1 in 10 churchgoers say they rarely or never open it. (US)

Here in Australia: 53% of church attenders do some private devotion daily — prayer, reading, both. Which means about half of us don't.

If that's you this morning — you are not the odd one out in this room.



WHY WE DON'T OPEN IT

“I don't have time.”

The word didn't lose the argument. It never got an appointment.

01



WHY WE DON'T OPEN IT

“I don't understand it.”

You started in Genesis. The plan died in Leviticus. And nobody told you your experience is in the Bible...

02

“How can I, unless someone guides me?” — Acts 8:31



WHY WE DON'T OPEN IT

“It feels far from my life.”

Old names. Old wars. Someone else's mail — while your life is Monday's deadline and Tuesday's rent.

03



WHY WE DON'T OPEN IT

“It reads like a report card.”

Every page, another subject you're failing. So you did the same thing — you put it in a drawer.

04



God reveals Himself **in it.**

Man-made rules “have an appearance of wisdom... but are of no value in stopping the flesh.” — Colossians 2:23



HOW GOD HAS ALWAYS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN

“And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD **revealed himself** to Samuel at Shiloh **by the word of the LORD.**” — 1 Samuel 3:21

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son.**” — Hebrews 1:1-2



God gives life **through it.**

“All Scripture is God-breathed...” — 2 Timothy 3:16 (theopneustos — breathed out by God)



MOSES · THE LAST SERMON OF HIS LIFE

“It is no empty word for you —
it is **your very life.**”

Deuteronomy 32:47



AND HERE IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT PERSON

“...his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is **like a tree planted by streams of water** that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. **In all that he does, he prospers.**” — Psalm 1:2-3



AND THE TREE SHOWS UP IN THE DATA

4+

days a week in the word — and life measurably changes.

Getting drunk **57% lower odds**

Sex outside marriage **68% lower odds**

Pornography **61% lower odds**

Sharing their faith **228% higher odds**

Discipling someone **231% higher odds**

But 1–3 days a week? Statistically, almost no different from not reading at all. Remember the two words? The difference was never reading vs not reading. It's dwelling vs visiting.



God changes the world **through** **it.**

“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth... it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” — Isaiah 55:11



AND THE WORLD NOTICED

“These men who have **turned the world upside down** have come here also.” — Acts 17:6



THEN — CIVILISATIONS

- **Translated** into more languages than any book in history — second place is not close.
- **Taught continents to read** — mass literacy exists because ordinary people wanted to read this.
- **Built** the hospitals. Built the universities.
- **Kept Wilberforce awake** until the slave trade fell.
- **Gave the West its values** — equality, compassion, dignity for the weak. (Tom Holland, Dominion)

“It is not helping you cope with the world. It is remaking the world — and it’s inviting you in.”



**How do you engage with the
Bible?**



THREE HANDLES

Get grounded

Read it

Daily — the word before the phone.
And never alone: read with a buddy.

"How can I, unless someone guides me?" — Acts 8:31

Journal it

Writing slows you to the speed of hearing. A verse copied by hand lands differently.

"I have stored up your word in my heart..." — Psalm 119:11

Meditate on it

Let it work from the inside out — become the person God has called you to be.

"...then you will make your way prosperous..." — Joshua 1:8

Start with one. Ground is laid one layer at a time.



START TONIGHT

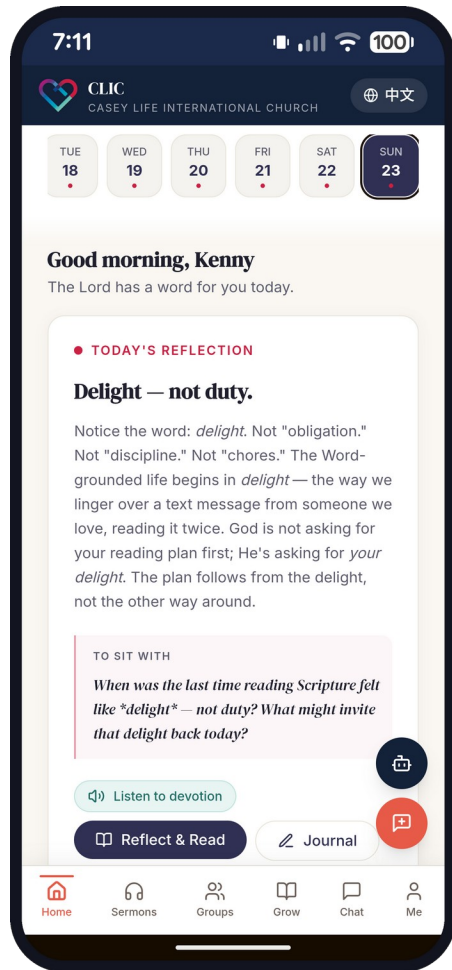
It's already in your pocket.

Our church app opens on the devotion — and it already does the three things we just said.

- **Read** “Reflect & Read” — today's passage, already chosen
- **Meditate** “To sit with” — one question to carry all day
- **Journal** write down what you heard

app.clichurch.com

Type it in — or scan the code



“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

C.S. Lewis · “The Weight of Glory” (Oxford sermon, 1941)

Don't settle for less.



**Imagine one year from now
the word of Christ dwelling in you
richly.**



One God.
One Book.
One Mission.

Weeks 1–3 · Today · Next Sunday



“He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. **And their eyes were opened**, and they recognized him.”

“Taste and see that the LORD is good.” — Psalm 34:8



“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

