

session two

made for great things

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SESSION ONE

Last session we talked about our journey through life. This journey is influenced by the things we choose and the things we don't choose. The choices we make will be helped by having the right information.

We looked at some common misconceptions about God and what the bible says about His good plan and purpose for our lives!

Human beings are different to any other living thing because we are made in God's image. **Then God said, "let us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness..."** GENESIS 1:26

As a result we are complex, with the ability to think, feel and choose. We are not robots going through programmed motions. People can invent and have achieved incredible things in science, medicine and art. We are amazing and continue to change our world.

Q: *Name some of mankind's greatest achievements?*

Q: *What sort of things do people want to achieve in their lives?*

Q: *Do these things make people happy?*

MADE TO FUNCTION IN 3 DIMENSIONS

God made us with 3 distinct parts – a spirit, a soul and a body.

1. **Spirit**
The bible teaches that our spirit is created to communicate with God. It is our spirit that makes us conscious of God and will still exist when we die. Your spirit is eternal, living forever.
2. **Soul**
Our soul consists of our mind, will and emotions, making us all unique!
3. **Body**
With our body we experience and contact the physical world.

We all have an in-built desire to know God and to function in all 3 dimensions – spirit, soul and body

If one area isn't working then we are dysfunctional, running on 2 cylinders not 3!

Q: *Imagine if the owner of a Ferrari only used 1st and 2nd gear without realising he could use others! What would the manufacturer say?*

Q: *If there is another dimension to life, would you want to know about it?*

We are free to ignore this 3rd dimension and even deny it, but we are made to know God and have a personal relationship with Him.

THERE IS A PROBLEM

Without God we are dysfunctional - not working at full potential. Something has made our spirit dead and so we are unable to relate to God.

It's like the system has crashed inside and we can only operate in 2 areas out of 3: our body and soul. Even though we may pray, try to be good and do good, our spirit remains dead to God.

The bible states that the problem is sin and that all of us have sinned. To sin means to 'miss the mark', like an archer aiming but missing the target.

When God first made mankind there was no sin and they enjoyed an unbroken relationship with Him. Everything was fine until they chose to sin, went against God's will and from that point on, sin separated them from God.

Our sin separates us from God

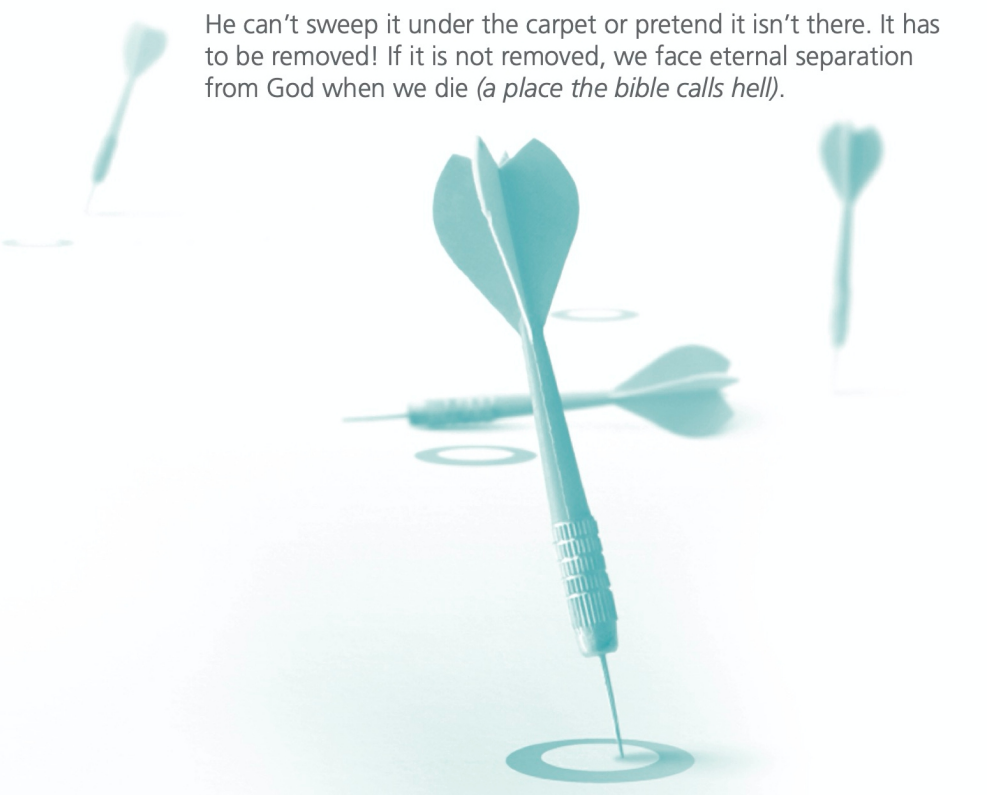
All have sinned and fall short of God's glory. ROMANS 3:23

Whether 'big sins' or 'little sins'... they all miss the target!

- Sin is like a wall that separates us from God
- Being good or doing the right things won't remove the wall
- God had to remove the wall for us, we cannot remove it ourselves

God loves us but He cannot ignore our sin

He can't sweep it under the carpet or pretend it isn't there. It has to be removed! If it is not removed, we face eternal separation from God when we die (a place the bible calls hell).



JESUS - THE SOLUTION!

God's solution for our sin was to send His Son Jesus, not just to teach and do miracles, but to take the punishment for our sin.

Imagine you are in court, on trial for a crime that you have committed. You are guilty, but another person volunteers to take your place and your punishment so that you can go free. *That's what Jesus did for you.*

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. JOHN 3:16

If we believe and accept what Jesus Christ did for us, God will remove our sin (the wall) and we will no longer be separated from Him.

If any one of us will acknowledge that we have sinned we can turn to God for help. If you accept Him as your personal Saviour you will be put right with God.

Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment for sin. He rose from the dead and now lives to forgive sins and accept all who put their faith in Him.

But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name. JOHN 1:12

Q: *What do people do to try and be accepted by God?*

Four horizontal light blue bars for writing an answer to the question above.

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Q: What does the bible say a person must do to be put right with God?

Q: Do you think this is good news?

This is a simple but powerful message:

- It is **good news** for all those who have tried to be accepted by God and failed.
- It is **good news** for those who are weary of trying to be better people.
- It is **good news** for everyone who will be humble enough to accept it.

FOR NEXT SESSION...

This session has given you a lot to think about! You may have found it liberating, surprising or it may have made you uncomfortable. Once again, we encourage you not to be too quick to dismiss what you have heard. Stay open minded – remember there is always freedom of choice.