

# Plan, Promises & Perseverance

## **A year in review**

In this study we will be thinking back through what we have learned and read at our growth groups this year. Much of what we have learnt in our studies this year has centred on God's plans and promises, along with the need for God's people to persevere in the faith.

In our four main study series – Revelation, Micah, 1 Peter and our recent Abraham series – we have also seen that God IS in control of things and that he will bring his faithful followers safely into his heavenly kingdom.

So let's put our thinking caps on as we delve deep into the memory banks, and have a bit of fun on the way!

## **Revelation**

Revelation is one of those books that you either love to read, or just “don't go there”. Over 2 stages we looked at 14 studies covering the whole book! It was quite a way to start the year, and a lot of hard work!

1. There are a number of different approaches to reading Revelation, which of the following IS considered one of them:  
(a) antinomian (b) optimist (c) proterist (d) idealist
2. Without turning to your Bibles just yet, who wrote the book of Revelation, where was it written and to whom was it written?
3. After John writes the seven letters in the first few chapters, he sees in his vision a glimpse of heaven and a vision of Jesus (Chapter 5). What does Jesus look like and what does it symbolise?

[TRIVIA QUESTION: There are a number of groups of 'sevens' in Revelation (e.g. seven lampstands). Which of the following are NOT mentioned as a group of seven?

- (a) trumpets (b) stars (c) scrolls (d) seals (e) witnesses (f) churches ]

## **Micah**

This series covered the whole book of the prophet Micah. Micah brought to Israel and Judah a message of the impending judgement of God. Divine judgement was soon to fall on them, but not *a//*the news was bad.....

[TRIVIA QUESTION: Micah uses the phrase "Jacob's transgression" early in Chapter 1. Remembering the purpose and context of the book, who or what is Jacob?

- (a) Isaac's son (b) another name for Jerusalem (c) Israel, the northern kingdom  
(d) Philistia ]

1. What reason does Micah give for the upcoming judgement (1:3-7)?
2. In the light of great national sin and social injustice, what does Micah instruct them to do? It's a very famous Old Testament verse – try to fill in the blanks without turning there! (6:8)

"And what does the Lord require of you?  
to act \_\_\_\_\_ and  
to love \_\_\_\_\_ and to  
walk \_\_\_\_\_ with your God."

3. What glimmer of hope was there in chapter 7?

[TRIVIA QUESTION: without checking, can you remember where Micah was from? Choose one of the following.....

(a) Bethlehem (b) Jotham (c) Samaria (d) Moresheth (e) Shechem ]

## 1 Peter

We looked at 4 studies in 1 Peter. The Apostle Peter wrote this letter to \_\_\_\_\_ number of regional churches, delivering powerful teaching that was relevant to them, and still is to us!

1. In chapter 1 what does Peter say 'proves' (or tests and refines) your faith (vv. 6,7)?
2. Peter says that in order for Christians to 'grow up' they need something. What is it and where do you get it? Try to complete this sentence without turning to the verse (2:2):  
"Like newborn babies, crave \_\_\_\_\_, so that by it you may grow up in salvation."
3. The following verse is relevant for all believers today, especially when thinking about sharing our faith with others. Try to fill in the blanks:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be \_\_\_\_\_ to give an \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ you to give the reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ that you have." (3:15)

[TRIVIA QUESTION: Peter wrote the letter with someone's help. Who was it? (5:12)

(a) Stephen (b) Paul (c) Timothy (d) Silas (e) Pontus]

## Abraham and the Promises of God

Our last study series of the year has focused on God's faithfulness to his promises and purposes. Faith, righteousness and blessing have been central themes as we have watched the great Abraham take bold and tentative steps as the one through whom God would bring blessing.

1. Abraham had received his first promises (chapter 12) from God at Haran. They moved to Canaan after that, but they didn't stay there. Where did they go after that and why?

2. When Abraham went to meet Melchizedek, what did Melchizedek 'bring out' with him?

(a) meat and wine (b) gold (c) "plunder" (d) bread and wine (e) a lamb without blemish

3. Complete the following verse:

"The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the \_\_\_\_\_?"

[TRIVIA QUESTION: When the Angel of the Lord was talking to Hagar about the birth of Ishmael, he described him as:

".....a \_\_\_\_\_ of a man....."

### **Looking Back**

What have the highlights of the growth group been for you?

What have the disappointments been?

Are there ways you have grown as a Christian this year? Share them with the group.

Are there others in your group who have encouraged you this year? Share it with the group.

It's been a big year! Hopefully you have grown in your knowledge of God through these studies. And hopefully you've been encouraged to persevere in living and growing as a follower of Jesus. Don't forget, all of the Bible talks given this year are on the MPC website ([www.mpc.org.au](http://www.mpc.org.au)). Look out for the growth group sign up sheets are the beginning of next year, and encourage someone you know to join a group!