

Mission Statement Studies:

These studies are designed:

1. To introduce you to the Vision of the Church

2. To challenge you to Play Your Part.

3. To help you to live and develop as a Christian.

# Study 1 - Be Like Me!

When in New Testament Times a Rabbi asked someone to become their Disciple what they were effectively inviting them to do was to become like them. Jesus, Our Rabbi and Lord, makes this same appeal to us today. He became like us so that we might become like Him. The title Christian literally means "Little Christ".

Here are four examples where Jesus does this: (Take a look at each in context.)

     1.***John 20:21*** - As the Father has sent me so I send you...

* + What are the implications of this verse for the way you live your life?

     2. ***John 8:12*** - I am the light. ***Matthew 5:14*** - you are the light.

* + What does light look like?
	+ What is its purpose?

     3.***John 14:12*** - Greater things than these shall you do...

* + What does Jesus mean when he says we are to do the same thing; the greater things?
	+ Is this true? If your are not experiencing this in your Christian Life why do you think that is?
	+ What would it take to be the case?

4. ***Mark 16:9-20*** - In this passage we have listed those things that Jesus would expect His followers to be doing.

* + How many of them can be found in the life of Jesus or in the New Testament.
	+ How many of them have you experienced in your Christian Life?

What do you think you should do with what you have learnt in this study?

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# Study 2 - Knowing Christ

What is the difference between our understanding of "knowing" in the 21st Century and the Churches in the first century?

To know now tends to mean to acquire knowledge. To know the facts. To know then meant to know personally, to have an experience of, to engage with, to apply to...

"Knowing is not just knowing about... it is not even simply about becoming Christian. It is about encouraging a developing relationship with Jesus that deepens over time." Would you agree with this statement? How does it work in practice?

What do the following passages have to teach us about Knowing Christ:

Is what they outline true for you?

1. ***Philippians 3:10,11*** - Paul's Aspiration.
2. ***Ephesians 1:15-23*** - Paul's Prayer for Us. (N.B. Knowing is mentioned twice in this prayer.)
3. ***1 Corinthians 13:1-13*** - The Best Way
	* What does it means to know as we are fully known?
	* Why is love woven into the idea of knowing Christ?

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# Study 3 - Growing in Faith

Growing in Faith is more than adding to your pool of knowledge, or even being confirmed in your convictions. It is about stepping out of your comfort zone and doing Jesus things." Do you agree?

What is the difference between belief; dogma and living faith? ***Hebrews 11***

1. A great example of faith being worked out is found in ***Matthew 14:22-36.***

* When did Peter start to exercise faith?
* What caused his difficulty?
* What do you think Peter learnt?
* Think about this incident from the perspective of the other disciples.
	+ How do you think they felt?
	+ What do you think they learnt?
* Does your faith look more like that of Peter or the other Disciples at the present time?
* What would it take for you to make the change?
* What can the church do to support you in being more like Peter?

2. ***Acts 3:1-10*** - This is a great example of Peter using the faith he had.

* How do the lessons Peter learnt by walking on the water play out in this passage?

If faith only grows when it is applied where do you need to put your faith into practice?

In what ways is Jesus calling you to step out of your boat? Who would he have you touch/ reach? How could this happen in a way that speaks of God’s power and presence?



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# Study 4 - Going to the World

This is not a suggestion in the New Testament. It is a command that the early church took very seriously. How seriously do you think we take it as Christians today? Why do you suppose that is?

Take a look at each these passages in turn. What can we learn from them about our own going?

***1. Matthew 9:35-10:16***

***2. Matthew 28:18-20***

***3. Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20***

***4. Acts 1:8***



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# Study 5 - Showing God's Love

Why do you suppose we are called to show God's love to those we meet?

How are we supposed to do this?

Why is this important?

1.***1 John 4:7-5:5***

* Do you suppose John means in this passage that we should only love other believers?

2.***Philippians 2:5-11***

* How does the mind of Christ manifest in your life and the way you treat others?

3. ***Matthew 25:31-46***

* How does this passage play out in your life? Would you say you were a sheep or a goat?

4. ***Matthew 10:1-8***

* How does showing become sharing and vice versa?

What do you think the impact of showing God's love in practical ways might be?

The Church in Antioch (***Acts 11:19-30***) was widely known in the 1st Century for its love and care for all. It supported the poor, it fed the hungry, it clothed the naked, it preached the gospel.

What do you think it is going to take for Albany Road Baptist Church to become a church that Knows Christ; Grows in Faith; Goes to the World and Shows the love of God.  What is you place in it and what part can you play to fulfill this vision?