
Compelled By Love

Part 1 - Good News God

Today marks an exciting new season in the life of our church as we launch *Compelled by Love*. riverlifecyclechurch.org.au/compelledbylove

We have been so blessed by God as we have sought to seek His presence together as family. He has answered our prayers that we might be a people empowered by His presence and have the honour of being able to 'show and tell' His great love to those around us, and this is really what *Compelled by Love* is all about. We want to spend this series encouraging and equipping you to be able to share the love of Jesus naturally in our daily lives, with the people we know and the people we are yet to meet!

Once you have experienced the transformational love of God at work in your own life; when we have been so captured by this love and freedom through Jesus, we can't help but want to tell everyone – we are *Compelled by Love*!

The major challenge for all churches is that we don't forget our original purpose – Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 10:7-8; Mark 12:30-31; John 13:34-35.

God's greatest hope lies in our hands – will His last command be our first priority. The bottom-line premise is that lost people matter to God and therefore should matter to us. God was compelled by love and we should be too. (John 3:16)

Loving Our Frontline

Frontline primarily means a place or time we regularly meet with people who don't know Jesus, though it also includes all places of life where we invest time and energy: workplaces, neighbourhoods, social media, or amongst friends and family.

Our vision for God's mission has been reframed – and it's for the better.

God sends His people out to extend His healing and peace and love and mercy into all parts of life (Colossians 3:23).

Our God is a Good News God

Right from the beginning God wanted to be in relationship with us and provide for us purpose to living (Genesis 1:26-28).

We are supposed to be God's representatives who allow life to flourish in every area of our lives – our frontlines.

Humankind sinned by wanting to be like God, determining our own right from wrong, and we become separated from God and His initial plan for being in fruitful, blessed relationship with Him and one another (Genesis 3).

Blessed to Be a Blessing

God knew right from the start that the best way to live was under His protection that came with His blessings of God's kingdom: salvation, healing, peace and freedom!

In Genesis 12:2-3 God shows His unfolding plan to choose a people as a means of demonstrating to the world that He wants to restore people back into right relationship with Himself.

Christians are blessed, like Abraham and Israel, not for our own sake but in order to bring blessing to the whole world (Galatians 3:7-9).

The heart of God is that all people will know Him and call on His name to be saved, He truly is a missional God and this really is good news.

Jesus Is Good News

Being a part of the Kingdom of God is now available through Jesus. God's reign, God's power, God's presence and God's provision are now available to all who want to have Jesus' life lived through them.

The entry point into the Kingdom of God only comes by repenting – reviewing your plans for living and changing them from your plans to God’s plans, and believing – placing your trust in God who has the capacity to deliver what He promises (Mark 1:15). This of course is only done through Jesus Christ.

This good news that we can be part of God’s Kingdom comes by being saved and having our sins forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. We then receive a life of abundance now and life forever with God in His Kingdom.

Commissioned

Mathew 28:18–20

1. “Go”, go out into the dark places of the world announcing the good news of God as you disciple nations (Matthew 5:13–16; Colossians 3:23–24)
2. “Baptising”, baptising people is a sign that the old broken way of our life has died and the new humanity in Christ is being born again. The original call to extend God’s blessing and fruitfulness and peace is moving forward.
3. “I am with you”, Holy Spirit’s empowering presence is already at work in our frontlines and God will help us faithfully follow Him until His Kingdom comes in fullness.

Heaven on Earth

Those who want to be part of the kingdom are to promote God’s kingdom – a kingdom of peace, righteousness, humility and joy and they were to invade the kingdom of Earth. Jesus taught His followers to pray to that end (Matthew 6:9).

Discussion Questions

1. Are you compelled by His love?
2. Do you live in such a way by the power of His Spirit, that you are salt and light to the world around you?
3. Does your life bear witness to a Good News God?
4. Pair up with someone else in the group. Share with your partner why Jesus is Good News to you. If you can't do it with Christians, it will be more difficult with those on your frontline!
5. Spend some time thinking through how you would share the good news of what Jesus has done for you with different people you are in relationship with (eg your neighbour, a work colleague, a friend). Does how or what you share change depending on who you are sharing it with?
6. Familiarise yourself with *The Epic Story* as a way to be able to share the Gospel. Head to riverlifechurch.org.au/compelledbylove and watch the video of how to use this resource.