

2025 TERM 1 LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Bracken Ridge
BAPTIST CHURCH

*_everyday
disciple_*



Everyday Disciple

In 2023, a group of QB leaders went away on retreat to consider how churches can make disciples in the modern day. They shared what had helped them become disciples of Jesus and narrowed it down to four main things: studying Scripture, developing closeness to and dependence on Jesus, serving in community, and being active in making disciples.

Out of this, “Everyday Disciple” came about which focuses on these four themes:

- Week 1: Counting the Cost (Introduction)
- Week 2: Immersed in Scripture
- Week 3: Serving in Community
- Week 4: Growing Intimacy
- Week 5: Called to Multiply
- Week 6: Finishing Well (Conclusion)

ACCESSING THE MATERIAL

On the following pages you will find all of the information needed to go through the Life Group Material.

If you are unable for some reason to access the material, please simply email office@brbc.org.au or call 07 3261 5045.

counting the cost_

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES



Watch Video – 4mins

Small Group Introduction

Welcome to week 1 of the Everyday Disciple series. Our prayer for this series is that across our Queensland Baptist Churches that we would make mature disciples that multiply. I pray that over the next 6 weeks that this small group will be a place where you can share openly and pray for each other to know Jesus more, become more like Jesus and love others the way He loves us.

We all have a joy meter where we weigh up the cost that we are willing to pay for something for the joy that it promises. Jesus makes it clear in two short, simple parables in Matthew 13 that there is a cost to enter the Kingdom of Heaven but the joy of knowing Jesus as King is far greater than the cost we have to pay to follow Him.

Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus was willing to pay the cost to know Jesus. In John 12, she pours out her future security over Jesus' feet in worship of her Lord and Saviour. Paul the persecutor of Christians had a radical change of heart when he met the risen Jesus and was willing to give up everything that he had worked so hard to achieve, to know Jesus more every day.

We have called this series everyday disciple to help us know Jesus more intimately and become more like Him every day. You can't do that by just turning up to church on a Sunday, as important as that is. Just like any other relationship, we can get to know Jesus more by spending more time with Him, and I would encourage you today to make some commitments to one another about how you can do that over the next 6 weeks.

You can't become more like Jesus by simply trying harder than last week. You will however become more like Jesus little by little every day if you train in spiritual disciplines. If you choose to train every day, He will

do the heavy lifting by renewing your mind by the truth of His Word and transforming your heart by the power of His Spirit.

We live in an entitled culture, where we are told that we have the right to do whatever we want to make ourselves happy. The problem is it doesn't work. Jesus makes it clear that His disciples must choose to deny themselves what they feel entitled to in their sinful nature every day, and that is how we will find the joy filled life that we so desire and begin to love others more like He loves us.

I want to encourage you as you begin this series to open your heart and mind to receive all the Jesus has for you. We have a Saviour who knows what it is like to weigh up the cost for the joy set before Him. He was willing to pay the cost of the cross to be seated at the right hand of God, having provided the sacrifice we needed for the forgiveness of our sins. You are His special possession. He treasures you and not only wants what is best for you but knows what is best for you. I pray that this time together over the next 6 weeks will help all of us become everyday disciples of Jesus that know Him more, become more like Him and be more loving to those around us. God Bless.

Small Group Questions

1. We all have a joy meter. We weigh up the cost we are willing to pay for something for the joy that it promises us. What are some things that you are willing to pay for to provide you joy, whereas other people are maybe not so inclined to pay the cost? (Think food, hobbies, holidays, houses.)
2. Read Matthew 13:44-46. What do these two parables have in common? What is the cost that the guys are willing to pay for the joy that they receive? What is the point that Jesus is making to help us understand about the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Read John 12:1-3. What does Mary's sacrifice tell us about how much Mary thinks knowing Jesus is worth? In what ways does Mary's devotion to Jesus reflect or not reflect your worship of Jesus?
4. Read Philippians 3:4-11. What is the cost that Paul paid to know Jesus more intimately? What are some costs that you have paid to get to follow Jesus?
5. One cost in following Jesus is the time needed to get to know Jesus more intimately every day. How do you spend time with Jesus that fills you with joy? Where do you go? What do you do? How can you sacrifice some time every day over the next 6 weeks to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His voice through His word? What could stop you from doing this?
6. Another cost is the cost of training ourselves to become more like Jesus every day. What are some spiritual training exercises/disciplines that have helped to shape you into the character of Jesus? What is a spiritual training exercise that you would like to try over the next 6 weeks?
7. Read Luke 9:23-24. What would "take up your cross daily" mean to the listeners? How is Jesus challenging you to deny what you feel entitled to and to take up your cross to follow Him? Try to be specific. Are there any areas in your life where Jesus is challenging you to deny yourself and choose to follow His ways of loving obedience?

immersed in scripture – SMALL GROUP RESOURCES



Watch Video – 2mins 30sec

Small Group Introduction

So, let me ask you, who are you trying to be? Like, whose lifestyle are you trying to emulate? Whose feed are you following? Who are you subscribed to? Whose way of thinking, a way of living is influencing your way of thinking and your way of living?

Well, let me tell you who the top influences are in our world at the moment. Christiana Ronaldo has the most followers on Instagram, followed by Leo Messi, followed by Selena Gomez, Kylie Jenner, Dwayne the Rock Johnson, Ariana Grande, Kim Kardashian, Beyonce, Khloe Kardashian, the brand Nike, Kendall Jenner, Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift, Virat Kohli.

The people in our world that we want to emulate and follow and base our lives on are soccer players, Kardashians, brands, actors, and singers. Like, I don't think we've got the right people. And in fact, if you want to be a follower of Jesus, to follow, Jesus means that you base your life on his life, his way of thinking, his way of living, his way of doing everything becomes your way of doing everything. You emulate him, you follow him, you copy him.

And the way you know how to do that is by finding mentors in your life, people that can disciple you and engaging together in God's word. It is God's word that tells us how to live the life that Jesus lived, how to live like him, how to be transformed in our thinking by His word. And I'm so excited for you guys that you get to sit down together and open up God's word together and ask the question, how can we be transformed by God's word every day, in every way for every good deed? I'm excited for you and I'm excited that you're doing it together.

That's the best way to do it, to, to journey together, to share together, to spur one another on, to, to encourage each other, to keep each other accountable. And as you journey through the small group

questions and share together and tell stories and encourage each other and spur each other on, I just really pray that you'll be deeply impacted by the life transforming message of the scriptures.

Small Group Questions (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

1. Who are some of the exemplars or influencers you have looked to for guidance in your life? What aspects of their lives do you find inspiring?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Based on 2 Timothy 3:10-13, how does Paul present himself as an example worth following? What aspects of Paul's life and character stand out to you?
3. If you are younger in the faith (a "Timothy"), who is a "Paul" in your life? If you are older in your faith in Jesus (a "Paul"), are there any "Timothys" you are encouraging or mentoring in the way of Jesus? How do you do this?
4. How have you gone with your daily devotions over the last week? What did you do? In what ways have they impacted your life?
5. Timothy had heard Scripture from infancy (3:15). How long have you been reading the Bible? How well do you feel you know the Old Testament and New Testament? What has helped you most in understanding the teaching of the Bible?
6. What is your favourite book in the Bible? Why? What book do you know best? Tell the group something about a book in the Bible that you have read.
7. Verse 16 describes Scripture as "God-breathed" and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. What does this mean for you? How is reading Scripture different from reading a helpful book? Can you think of a time when you were rebuked by Scripture?
8. Obviously, Paul sees listening to and applying Scripture as vital in Christian discipleship (3:17). In the light of this passage, what changes, if any, do you feel prompted to make in your approach to reading and applying God's Word? How can your small group support you in these efforts?
9. Pray for each other that you will grow in your love of God's Word and that the rhythm of daily Bible engagement will deeply and profoundly transform each of you.
10. Read Psalm 19:7-14 out loud to finish.

serving in community_ **SMALL GROUP RESOURCES**



Watch Video – 4mins

Small Group Introduction

A long time ago when I was first at university studying psychology, I avoided a whole subject I knew I'd be interested in just because it involved a group assignment. In my defence, I did that because being part of a group or a community can be really challenging! Particularly being part of the church – when you have a diverse group of broken people together in the same room there's a lot that can be hard. The sad thing is, often when the road gets tough, we have a tendency to lean away from community – or give up altogether. But this only leads us to more isolation, we lack the purpose and truth of God when we try to do life on our own and find meaning in the ways of the world. Removing ourselves from the people of God will not lead to freedom, but usually only enslaves to an endless pursuit of meaning and joy.

But this isn't the way God wants it to be. Jesus calls us to be his disciples – those who learn his way and try to live the way he calls us to. Someone once said that "discipleship is not a solitary journey, it's walking together in the footsteps of Jesus". You might have heard the old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child", well I believe it's also true that it takes a village to raise a disciple.

The passage we are studying is Ephesians 4:11-16 and it explains the structure, responsibilities, and blessings of church life – or in other words – village life. We are given leaders who equip us and help us on the journey – but all the responsibilities of disciple making do not lie on their shoulders alone. Every single believer in God's family has a vital role they can play in raising up disciples. Each of us have gifts, skills and circumstances in our life that empower us to play certain roles in our village. And while this will take time and energy from us – it's a worthy pursuit because when we all play our part as disciple making disciples in village life that's when we grow deeper and stronger together than we ever could apart! Living in a faith community gives us support and safeguards that help us when we fall, that remind us of our purpose and can encourage us to become more faithful followers of Christ.

So perhaps you identify more as a disciple of Jesus on a solitary journey – the challenge for you in Ephesians 4 is to engage in community life and see what blessings might abound. For others of us we have been engaged in busy church life and feel discouraged that we aren't seeing growth or fruit in our lives or in others. If that's your my challenge is for you to take stock of the way you approach church life. Perhaps your pursuits and attitude need a revitalization that will make village life less about chores you feel you have to do and more about lifegiving service and relationship. Our goal shouldn't be to just do more stuff in church because it's what we're supposed to do. Our goal should be to grow as a faithful disciple of Jesus, in community, encouraging our brothers and sisters to do the same. The way we engage in relationships and service should stem from that heart and motivation.

It takes a village to raise a disciple because that's how God intended it to be, he put us in community where we all have a role to play – and when we do that together we will be grown deeper and stronger in our faith than we ever could apart. So, what's your part to play?

Small Group Questions (Ephesians 4:11-16)

1. Are you more an introvert or an extravert? In other words, do you get most energy from being by yourself or being with others? When do you most enjoy being with others?
2. Do you feel negative, positive, or maybe just neutral about living life in God's community? How engaged are you presently and why? *Not everyone may want to share their answer here, and that's okay!*
3. In the church community, God gives us leaders who equip us (Eph. 4:11-12). Paul gives examples of four types of leaders – apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers. Are any of these types of leaders serving and equipping people in your church? How do the leaders in your church equip God's people? How can we express our appreciation to them?
4. In Ephesians 4:12 Paul says that the church is equipped by leaders for works of service, and in 4:16 he shares that the body grows when each part does these works of service. What do you think these works of service look like? (See 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28-31 and Romans 12:6-21 for some ideas.)
5. What do you think may be your spiritual gifts and talents/passions? How are you contributing to the church family and community with these gifts? *If you know each other well, the small group might take time to share gifts and talents they see in each other.*
6. Generally, we like to be non-judgmental as we live in community. What do you think 'speaking the truth in love' (Eph. 4:15) to other believers looks like as you walk the discipleship journey together? Give a personal example if you can.
7. How have Paul's directions in this passage about growing to maturity through community been true for you? In what ways has being in a community of believers helped you grow to maturity in your faith?
8. What is God saying to you about growing and serving in community? Options include: find a mentor, offer to mentor someone else, find a place to serve and use your gifts, be more hospitable, do a Bible reading plan with someone, begin devotional times with your family.
9. Pray for each other as you seek to navigate life in community, with all its quirks and challenges. Thank God for the gifts he's given each person and the opportunities for service that they offer. Pray that each person would know the love and support of Christian community, and that each will offer love and support to other growing disciples.

growing intimacy_

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES



Small Group Video Introduction



Watch Video – 4mins

Small Group Introduction

I want to introduce you to this section of the everyday disciple series which is actually an introduction to the Bible study where we look at what the scriptures have to say about the importance of remaining intimately connected with Jesus and summary of message that you can get on the recording of John 15 where I talked about God being a farmer. Every farmer wants a crop. God works with us organically. He works with us closely and intimately. Jesus often employed images of fields and vineyards when conveying spiritual principles in relation to our connection with God.

There's five Rs that I also wanted to remind you of.

The first R is recognise. We really need to recognise that God crop comes through the branches, and we are the branches as disciples of Jesus. God works intimately with us. He's cultivating, he's fertilizing, he's pruning, he's nurturing us so that we can be fruitful in our connection. God's investing in our lives. He's not distanced. He's and he's expecting a return, on his efforts, which is seen in the parables like the parable of the Talents.

We also need to realise that we need to be connected to Jesus to have life followers are like branches connected to Jesus. And he's the vine symbolizing his role as bringing us the life of God and us bearing spiritual fruit. God chooses to work in us and through us. We're his co-labourers achieving his purposes in this world. And so we need to realise that without Jesus, we don't have a life in the spiritual way.

We need to relinquish. Being connected to Jesus isn't always comfortable. And so we need to relinquish our desire for comfort. Branches must submit to the vine. We need to stay connected with Jesus, even in those difficult times, when we are being pruned so that we will actually be more fruitful in our life with Jesus.

And we also need to reproduce. Great things happen when we remain connected to Jesus. Spiritual life and fruitfulness come from being connected to him and so we actually show the life of God in the fruit that comes from our lives, our attitudes, our speech, our actions, all our fruit, How we connect with Jesus will influence the quality of that fruit.

And finally, we need to resolve, make connecting with Jesus our main priority. Fruitfulness is not for our own personal benefit, but to bring glory to God. And so, we as branches bearing fruit are meant to give that fruit away so that others would come to know him as well. As we follow Jesus, as we be his disciples, we need to maintain that intimate connection.

We need to recognise that we are God's branches. We need to realise that our connectedness with Jesus is what gives us our life. We need to relinquish our desire to be comfortable. because we're not always comfortable being a disciple of Jesus. And we need to reproduce the life of God in us because God wants a crop. He wants a return on his investment. And we need to resolve making a connection with Jesus, a vital connection with Jesus, an intimate connection with Jesus, the most important thing that we do in our day-to-day lives.

Enjoy this Bible study as you dig deeper into what it means to be intimately connected to Jesus.

God bless you.

Small Group Questions (John 15:1-8)

Understanding the Metaphor:

1. What do you think Jesus means when he compares God to a farmer and us to branches? See how many similarities you can think of.
2. What is the significance of the picture that the branches cannot bear fruit apart from the vine (15:4)? Does this mean that we can't bear any fruit without Jesus' help? What about people who do really good things?

Dependency on Jesus:

3. The more we remain in Jesus the more fruit we will produce (15:5). How do we remain in Jesus? What do you think Jesus is talking about? Give some examples of how you remain in Jesus in a typical day.
4. What tends to disconnect you from Jesus? How can we guard against becoming disconnected from Jesus in our daily lives?

Embracing Discomfort for Growth:

5. What is the difference between God cutting by pruning (15:2) and God cutting off and burning (15:6)? How can you tell whether God is pruning you back to grow more or cutting you off because you are not alive? Share a time when you experienced spiritual "pruning" in your life (15:2). Did it ultimately lead to growth? If so, how?
6. None of us likes the pruning process, but according to Jesus, it is essential. How can we accept pruning and not try to avoid it?

Fruitfulness through Intimacy:

7. Reflect on a season in your life when you experienced significant spiritual fruit (either personal growth or spiritual results). What was your relationship with Jesus like during that time?
8. What has helped your spiritual intimacy with Jesus? What do you do to love Jesus and let him love you?

Resolving to Prioritize Intimate Connection:

9. Pray that each member of the group will experience a fresh intimacy with and dependence on Jesus and that much fruit will result.

called to multiply **SMALL GROUP RESOURCES**



Small Group Video Intro (4 mins)



Small Group Introduction

Hey, congratulations on doing this Bible study. What a great decision and my prayer is as you jump into a familiar passage that I imagine every Christian knows really well, that you'll take a look at it with fresh eyes.

I don't know about you, but most people, when they start to read the Great Commission, a little bit of anxiety starts to well up. Now, there's a couple of reasons for that.

First of all, we just don't want to offend people. That's our number one issue in our culture at the moment. There's cancel culture. There's all that different stuff rolling around in our community, and there's this strong sense that we don't have the right to go out and tell people the good news.

Now, I hate to tell you this, but Satan is behind that attitude. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy. He does not want people to find Jesus. He wants them to remain separate. I don't understand his motivation. I don't understand Satan. But what I do know is that we have got to get excited about the fact that the Great Commission is not just a job to do, but it's a passage that gives us some wonderful promises.

And if we take Jesus at His word, we're going to see that the Great Commission is not a burden. It is a blessing. It is the greatest blessing we're going to have on Earth. You are invited by God to join his team, to get out there and tell people the greatest news of all time.

And by the way, God's Holy Spirit is going to go with you. He's going to give you the words, he's going to help you along the way. You can do some intentional things. You can get some training. You can imply strategies. But at the end of the day, if you are willing to go with the Holy Spirit, if you're willing to go out into the community, make relationships, and share God's love and be like Jesus, the opportunities are going to arise.

I was hanging out with someone just the other day and they reminded me of what I used to call the dangerous prayer. I call it the dangerous prayer because Jesus always answers it. It's so simple – "Jesus, give me an opportunity to tell someone about you today". It's a dangerous prayer. If you pray that prayer, Jesus is going to give you an opportunity to tell someone about him, today.

Evangelism. A lot of us think we have to get someone all the way to the altar in every conversation. One thing that helped me when I was trying to fulfill the great commission as a young man was someone said to me, evangelism is giving someone one more bit of information about God that they didn't have before. You don't need to seal the deal in every conversation. You need to reveal something about God. You know, if we hear people's testimonies and we hear their stories about how they come to know Jesus, it usually involves many different interactions with many different Christians over time. And it all gets pieced together by God. And he gets all the glory because we can see that it was him who was guiding the whole thing.

So you don't have to stress. All you need to do is take the opportunities that God gives you to reveal more of who He is to someone that He puts you in front of that day. But it has to become your priority list. It has to become number one, that you seek first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness before everything else in life. Otherwise, you're going to miss out on these wonderful opportunities.

So as you dig into the scripture today and really see the promises of God for you, I pray you'll discover that you have the authority you need to go. We're going to go to all nations and we're going to teach them everything, so they become a true and genuine, mature disciple of Jesus. And best of all Jesus promises while you do that, he'll be with you.

Small Group Questions (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. It was once said that if our churches don't make disciple-making number one, it will always slip down to the bottom of our priority list. Do you agree? This may also be an issue for us individually. In the last year, what priority have you personally placed on making disciples?
2. Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (28:19) is the central part of the Great Commission. What are some practical ways we can fulfil this command in our daily lives?
3. Jesus claims in 28:18 that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. What implications did this statement have for the disciples as they took the gospel to the world? How does it assist us in the disciple-making process?
4. Baptism is mentioned as part of the disciple-making process (28:19). Why do you think baptism is an important step for those who become followers of Jesus? Share a little of your baptismal story if you have been baptised.
5. What does it mean to "teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (28:20)? How can we as believers today actively engage in teaching and learning from Jesus' commands?
6. Jesus concludes this passage by promising to be with his disciples "always, to the very end of the age" (28:20). How does this promise of Jesus' presence impact us as we go and make disciples?
7. Share one story from your life where you got to share your faith. Who are you seeking to disciple (by sharing the gospel and/or teaching) at the moment?
8. Is there anyone in your life and prayers that brings you to tears because they don't know Jesus? If not, suggest a person who could potentially touch your heart like that.
9. What is Jesus saying to you from this passage? Pray for each other.

finishing well_

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES



Watch Video – 6mins

Small Group Introduction

The Hare and the Tortoise is a famous fable attributed to Aesop, an ancient Greek storyteller. Let me tell you the story. Once upon a time, there was a hare (rabbit) who was very boastful about his speed. He often made fun of the slow-moving tortoise and challenged him to a race. The race began, and the hare quickly took the lead. Confident in his speed, the hare decided to take a nap under a tree while the tortoise continued to plod along steadily. However, the hare overslept, and when he woke up, he found the tortoise near the finish line, he tried to catch up, but the tortoise won the race. The moral of the story is often stated as "slow and steady wins the race."

I think that I'm mainly a hare. I like new ideas. I like change. I like doing things in new ways. I like improving things. I get bored quickly going over the same ground. For example, we have recently implemented a new structure at QB and already I'm thinking about how we can enhance it. I'm a quick thinker and my mind races with ideas.

I guess for this reason I have struggled to settle into a long-term rhythm for my time with God each day. I've journalled. I've walked. I've highlighted passages in colours. I've followed online devotions. I've read thru the Bible in a year. I have been using the same growing prayer list for the last 3 years, so that's a bit of a miracle. You can see I'm mainly a hare and I know that God made me and loves me like that.

When you look at the number of churches that the Apostle Paul planted you get the feel that he was a bit of a hare too. 3 years seems to have been the longest he stayed in any one church. He liked being on the move, preaching the gospel in new places. He was a real hare.

When he writes his second letter to his protégé Timothy, Paul is facing execution. 60-year-old Paul, is on his last legs. He is about to be beheaded under Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome. Here is what he writes to Timothy: 2 Timothy. 4:6-8.

^{2TIM 4:6} *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

Paul describes his imminent martyrdom in two ways to Timothy (4:6). 1. *He is being poured out like a drink offering.* That's graphic. His blood is going to spill out like a special offering to Jesus. His death will be a sacred sacrifice. 2. *He is departing.* This word was used for a ship casting off from the shore to sail to a new destination. There's no doubt about it, Paul is finished with this earth.

But as Paul reflects on 30 years of being a disciple of Jesus, he isn't focusing on his hare-like achievements – the number of churches he has planted, the number of towns he has preached in, the people he has brought to Jesus, the people he has seen raised from the dead. All these things are true, but Paul is focusing on his tortoise-like qualities. Because when it comes to the crunch, everyday disciples of Jesus are plodders. As Eugene Peterson puts it: "Discipleship is a long obedience in the same direction." Being a disciple, like the tortoise, is slow and steady, requiring patience, consistent effort and solid training.

As you study and discuss this Scripture, I pray that you will be encouraged and challenged to persevere as a disciple of Jesus, with the knowledge that while the journey will be challenging, the end is incredibly worthwhile.

Those who make it to the finish line as disciples of Jesus will be well rewarded for all their tortoise-like perseverance.

Remember: IT'S TORTOISES THAT FINISH WELL.

Small Group Questions (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

1. In Aesop's fable about the hare and the tortoise, do you see yourself more as a hare or a tortoise? Why is that?
2. What did Paul mean when he said that his life was being "poured out like a drink offering" (4:6, see also Ex. 29:38-41, Num. 15:1-12; 28:7)? What kind of things do you think will be on your mind when you approach death?
3. Paul says that he has "fought a good fight" (4:7). What kind of fights do you think he was referring to? As a disciple of Jesus, what battles are you involved in at the moment? Hint: They are probably linked to the world, the flesh or the devil. Would you see these as "good-looking" fights? Why or why not?
4. Paul says that he has "finished the race" (4:7). Paul uses lots of athletic metaphors in his writings about Christian discipleship e.g. 1 Cor. 9:24-27, 2 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 12:1, Gal. 5:7. Each time he brings out a different aspect. What is his emphasis here? What does this mean to you?
5. Paul says that he has "kept the faith" (4:7). This was a huge challenge for Paul as he lived in times of Roman persecution, lots of false teaching, and no settled Scriptures. What are the main issues today that take Christians away from their faith? What has enabled you to keep your faith?
6. What does it mean to long for the appearing of the Lord (4:8)? How does this longing impact our perspective on life and death? How can we cultivate a sense of anticipation for the return of Christ in our faith journey?

7. What do you think about the explanation of the “crown” (4:8) being all the righteous things that God has done in us and through us in this life (that how we serve as disciples now will count forever)? How does the idea of a crown encourage you?
8. In this Scripture, Paul is celebrating that he has made it, tortoise-like, to the end of his earthly calling. God has been faithful, and Paul has been faithful to the end. What could stop you from finishing well? What training will you be working on now to make sure that you continue to grow and serve as a disciple of Jesus? (Maybe your focus could be immersion in Scripture, or serving in community, or developing intimacy with Jesus, or making disciples.)
9. Celebrate the tortoise-like faithfulness of group members and pray for a fresh sense of joy about God’s future.



The logo for Bracken Ridge Baptist Church features the name "Bracken Ridge" in a white, elegant cursive script. This text is enclosed within a white circular outline that is partially open at the top and bottom. The background of the entire graphic is a teal color with several darker teal, wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth.

Bracken Ridge

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