

# Ethics

Aim of series: To provide and practice using a biblical ethical framework that allows people to see the value of the bible for living righteous lives in God's world.



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# Overview for GG leaders

As we dig into some heavy topics over the term it's important to be aware that a few of the issues are likely to be sensitive topics which may raise pastoral issues within your groups. My encouragement is to see this as an opportunity to bring the gospel to bear on these issues together in a way that is more helpful than doing it by yourself.

As many amongst us have felt the tensions these issues raise through personal experience it's a great series for testimonies, if you know someone who wrestled with one of the issues personally then why not ask them if they'd be willing to talk about how Jesus and the scriptures helped them navigate their experience with the topic. This will help everyone to see that these topics encapsulate real questions based on real experiences that many are likely to share either personally or through someone close to them.

## **There are two main aims of the series:**

The primary aim is to provide a biblical framework for thinking Ethically as Christians. We want all our Christian family to have a basic tool they can carry with them wherever they go that they can use to think biblically on even the most sensitive topics.

The secondary aim is to provide teaching on a variety of ethical questions that are relevant today.

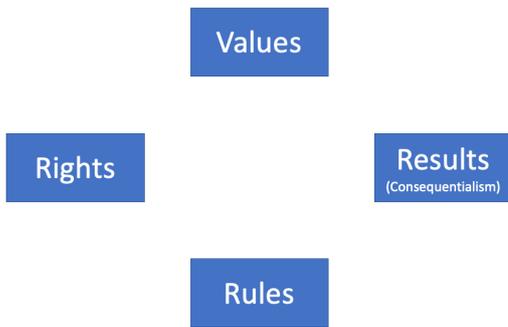
To make the most of these studies I suggest you reinforce the framework we provide for the first few weeks. Take the time to clarify what each part of the framework is asking for. (This will also be modelled by our preachers on Sundays will also use the framework as the basis for their sermons) and as the term goes on slowly build upon that framework by:

- a. Slowly providing less starting content within the framework (i.e. – provide less and less scripture references over the term and make them find more as a group as the term goes on).
- b. Aim to study some topics of your own during the last 2 weeks of term so that they can practice using the framework without other resources accessible, like they will in daily life.

Lastly, this terms content will show the value of daily bible reading and memorisation in applying to topics directly at hand but also in storing up knowledge of the bible to apply later when faced with new issues and ethical questions. Those who read their bible's regularly will be an asset to your Growth group this term (as they always are and more so!). Therefore, it could be a great term to do a memory verse together or encourage 1 to 1 bible reading amongst your group's participants.

# Describing the framework

Ethics is about seeking the moral good in our everyday lives. As Christians we know God knows what is best and we want to allow the bible to transform our first thoughts which our minds go to, our gut reactions and our slow developed processing to all seek His will in our lives. (Rom 12:2).



**Right and Wrong: Various Approaches**

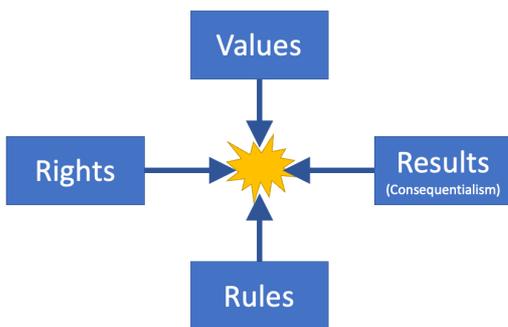
We all want to live a righteous and moral life but there are many approaches to achieving this:

Some focus on **results** – the ends justify the means.

Others lean more on **rights** – rights every human has to be who they are intended to be.

Others to **values** they hold on to.

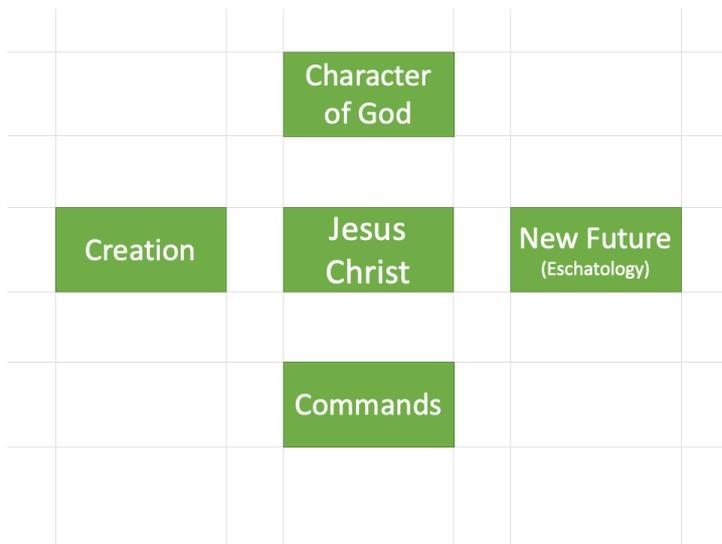
Still others follow **rules and codes**.



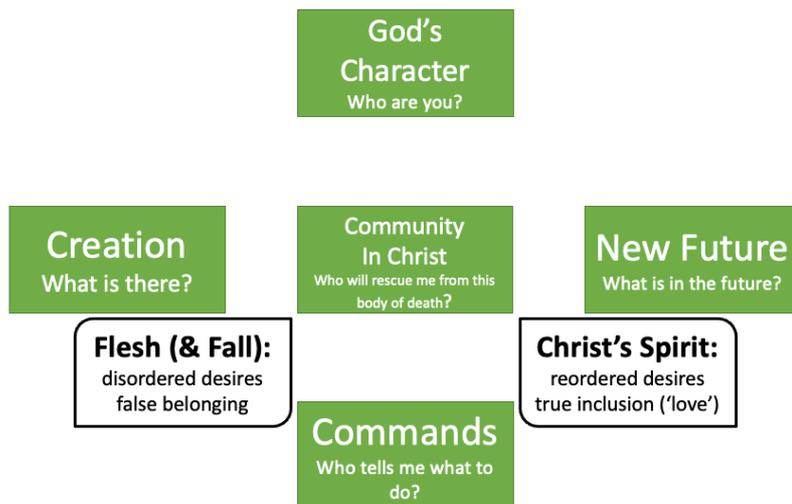
**Values and Rules don't always agree  
Rights and Results don't always agree**

All of these methods are useful, but the issue comes when they are insufficient and/or contradict one another.

What do I choose if I have to decide between our rights and the best result? Should I choose what I value or follow the rules?



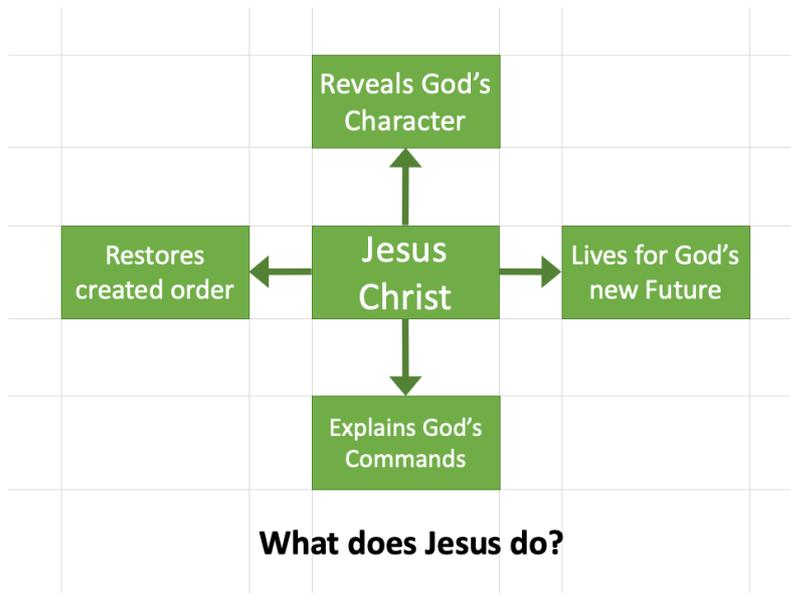
Andrew Cameron’s framework is called the joined-up life because it displays how the biblical ethical framework provides the model in which all the 'bits' that contribute to our ethical understanding— (the commands (rules), God's character (virtues), Jesus' teaching on or using creation and new creation are all held together in Jesus.



### The poles of a 'joined up life'

Andrew Cameron’s Framework for biblical ethical thinking is found in his book “joined up life” and is visualised in this diagram.

It displays that the bible uses the four outer “poles” of creation, character, new creation and Commands as the barriers within which morality is found, in other words working within these 4 poles will allow us to discover what is good and right.



Then he makes the case that Jesus helps us navigate between all these poles because Jesus not only made his arguments from these four poles (as seen in the diagram to the left), yet he also models to us as the perfect human who is always morally right and holds all four poles of ethical thinking together in harmony. Jesus is the deciding factor of what is right and wrong when different poles seem to clash.

This term we will use the model Andrew has given us (the first diagram on this page) as a framework for thinking biblically on any ethical question or topic.

# A study guide for group leaders

As growth groups from different congregations will be looking at each topic at different times throughout the term (see Appendix 1) It's helpful to follow the below advice as the term progresses to best develop the biblical ethical framework.

**Study 1 – An overview of the framework and a quick study on the environment using the same framework as weeks 2-7 below.**

**Study 2-7 – Deep dive into the topics raised on Sunday.**

1. No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. What does the world say about this issue – what differing opinions are there?
3. What does the bible say? – provide framework and some readings but create space for other scriptures to be raised by the group.
4. How is the bible's story better? If possible, provide readings or do Strengths and weaknesses of 1 worldly opinion compared to the bible's opinion.

**Study 8-9 – Choose your own adventure.**

1. Choose a topic the week prior as a group.
2. No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
3. What does the world say about this issue – what differing opinions are there?
4. What does the bible say? – They search the scriptures together – no suggestions from us.
5. How is the bible's story better? They try and find a comparison in the bible or do Strengths and weaknesses of 1 worldly opinion vs bible opinion.

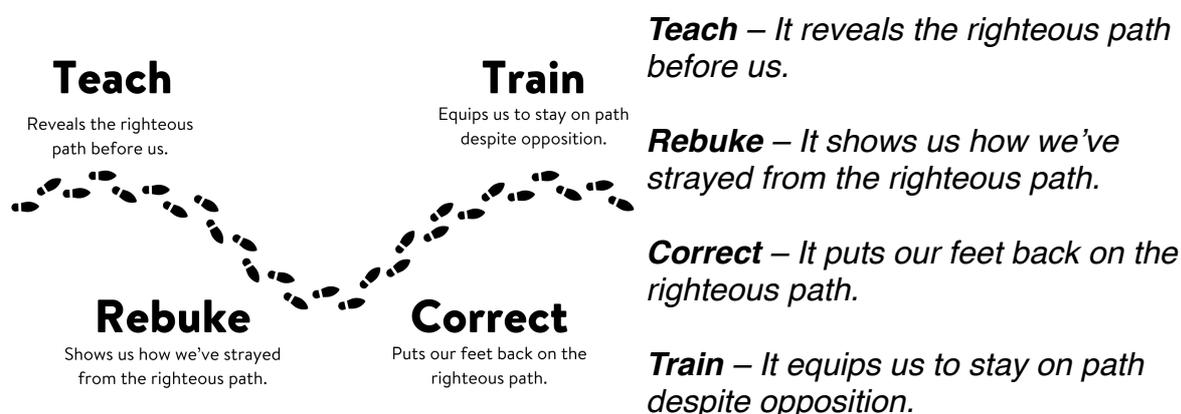
# Study 1 – The pursuit of right living

Introducing the ethical framework and using it on the topic of “environment”

1. Has anyone ever faced a dilemma where it was hard to discern what was right or wrong? Is anyone willing to share about that experience?
2. Split the group in half and assign one of these passages to each group (2 Tim 3:16-17, Hebrews 5:11-14) and answer the following questions:

According to your passage:

- a. Why pursue right living/doing good?
  - b. How do we know what’s right or good?
  - c. How does this passage challenge us in our everyday life?
3. In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul uses 4 words to describe that scripture is useful for righteous living. Work together to define what it looks like for Scripture to:

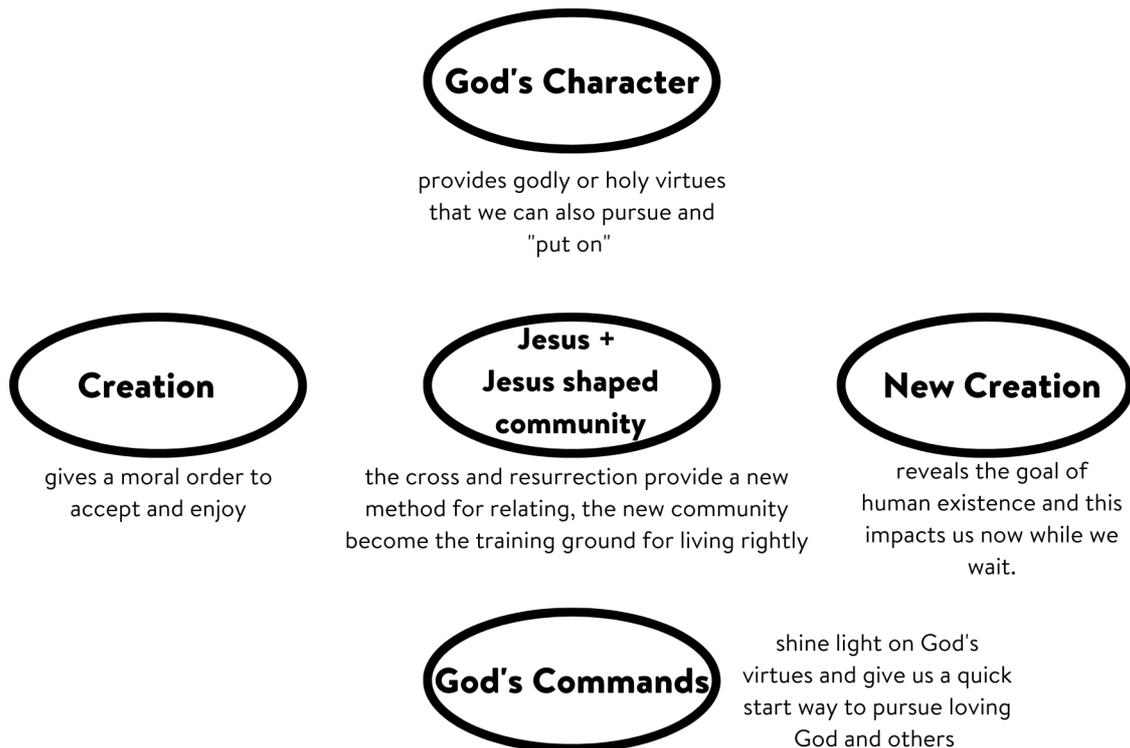


4. We want to use the scriptures to live rightly and so we’ll be using a simple framework for thinking biblically on any given topic to have the bible teach, rebuke, correct and train us.

Each week we will follow these 5 steps:

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let’s explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus’ wisdom in the scriptures together.

2. **What questions does the topic raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about this issue?** – using the provided framework to reap wisdom from the bible.
5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.



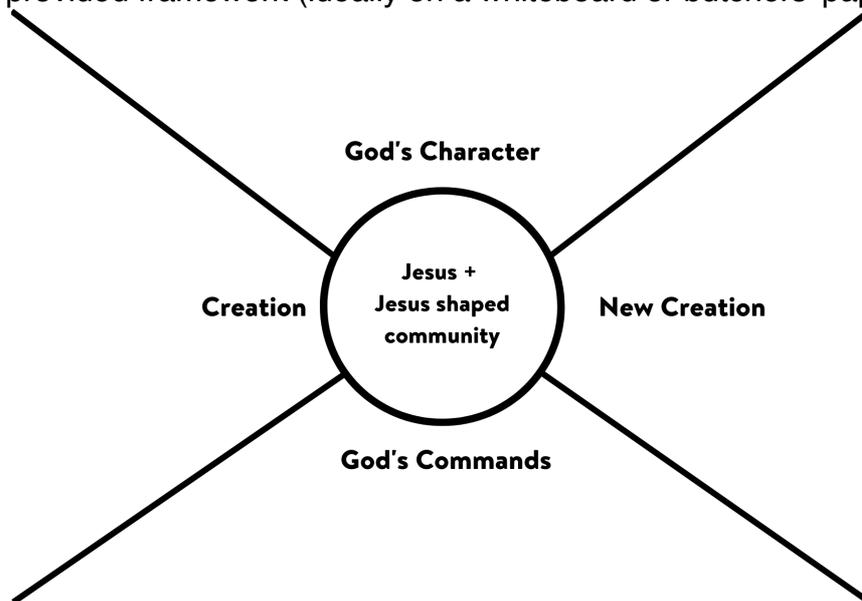
These studies are designed to be engaged with by the whole group. The idea is that the leader of the group facilitates the discussion rather than guiding the group to a particular answer. Therefore, it's really helpful if the group can begin thinking on the topic (one way would be to read through the verses for each week in advance). It's also helpful if everyone is willing and open to discuss and share their thoughts and findings each week.

So, let's go through these 3 questions with the topic of Environment.

1. **What questions does the topic of the environment raise?**
2. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**

3. **What does the bible say about the environment?**

**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).



*These bible verses begin the task of determining to what extent we're to separate out the natural world from the animal kingdom and then again from humans despite it not being straight forward. Then we need to determine how sin (directly and indirectly) and salvation effects the environment, and the old and new created order.*

**Character bible verses:** Genesis 1:1-4, 31, 2:1, Jonah 4:11

**Creation bible verses:** Genesis 1:28-31, Genesis 2:5-7, Leviticus 25:2-5, Proverbs 30:18-19

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Genesis 3:17-19, Matthew 16:26, Romans 8:20, 22

**Commands bible verses:** Deuteronomy 20:19, Deuteronomy 24:4, Proverbs 12:10, 1 Timothy 4:1-8

**Cross + Community bible verses:** Mark 12:31, John 3:16, Romans 8:19-22, Romans 8:28, 1 Corinthians 15:3, Galatians 4:4, Philippians 2:13, Philippians 3:8, Colossians 1:15-20, 1 Timothy 6:6

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Psalm 98, Isaiah 55:11-13, Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22, Mark 4:37-41, Acts 3:21, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Galatians 6:15, Hebrews 12:25-29, 2 Peter 3, Revelation 21:1-5, Revelation 22:1-5

**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

4. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's view better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Euthanasia

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.

2. **What questions does the topic of euthanasia raise?**

3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**

4. **What does the bible say about euthanasia?**

**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

*Much of this list establishes personhood and the value of all human life via the imago dei. And the passages which alert us to God's concern for the vulnerable of society are likewise very important here. A key addition is the call for families to care for vulnerable parents and grandparents, particularly widows, with the church obligated as backstop.*

**Character bible verses:** Deut 10:17–18, Matt 22:34–40, 1 Tim 5:3–8

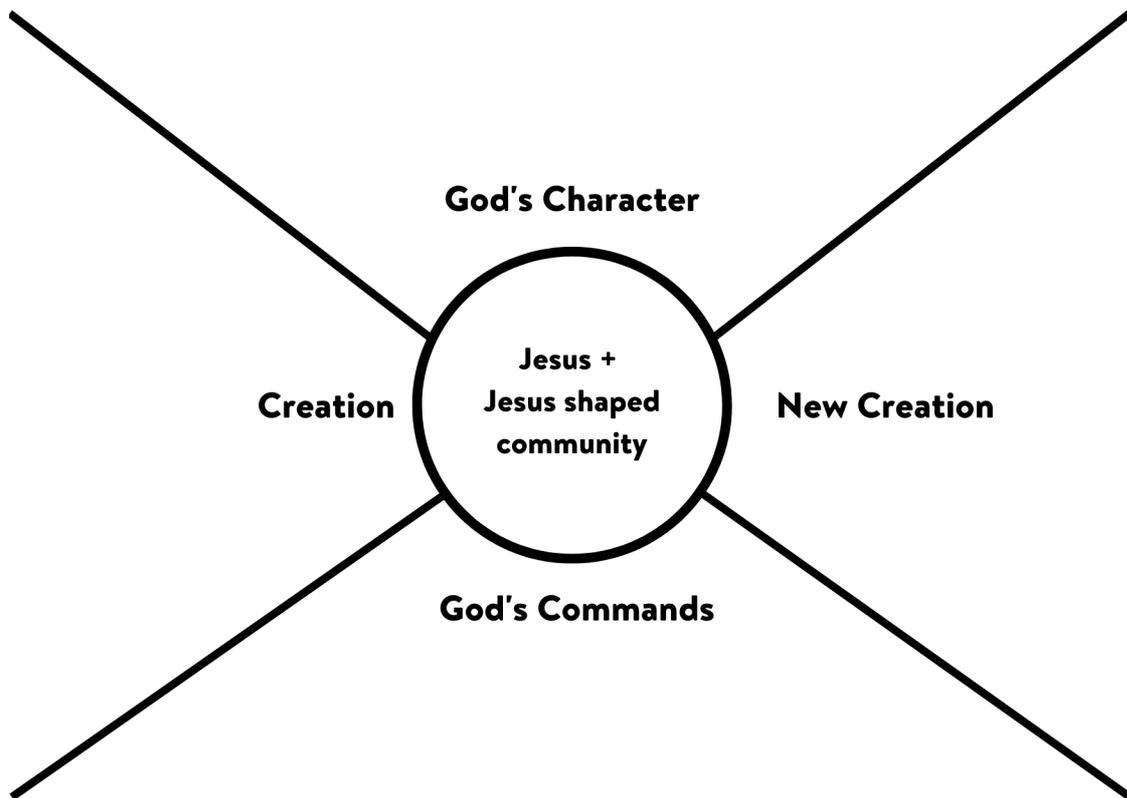
**Creation bible verses:** Gen 1:21, 24, 25, Gen 1:26–27, Gen 2:18, Gen 5:1ff, Gen 9:5–6, Deut 32:39, Job 10:8–12, Ps 139:13–16, Heb 4:13, Jas 3:9

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Phil 1:21–26 (Paul longs to depart and be with Christ as a relief from the frustrations of this world and in a desire for the next due to the stain of sin on this world)

**Commands bible verses:** Exod 20:13, Num 35:16–24, 30–34, Deut 24:14, Isaiah 1:17, Matt 22:34–40, 1 Tim 5:3–8

**Cross + Community bible verses:** Gen 2:18, Deut 10:17–18, Rom 8:29, Phil 1:20–26, Col 1:15, Col 3:10, 1 Tim 5:3–8, Heb 1:1–4, Jas 1:27

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Rom 8:29, Phil 3:12–14



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

- 5. Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Mental Health

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of mental health raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about mental health?**  
**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

The bible verses below aim to incorporate a range of things that impact our mental health (such as an understanding of humanity as embodied spirits – therefore our physical body and experiences impact our mental health and vice versa). It also includes passages that seem to have direct implications for mental health issues though they tend to apply to feelings more broadly with implications for mental health conditions (e.g. – Anxiety can be both a temporary feeling, and a mental health condition). As you study through these passages and consider together their potential implications for ethical decisions remember that mental health issues are both common and complex.

**Character bible verses:** Matt 7:7-11, Psalm 27,

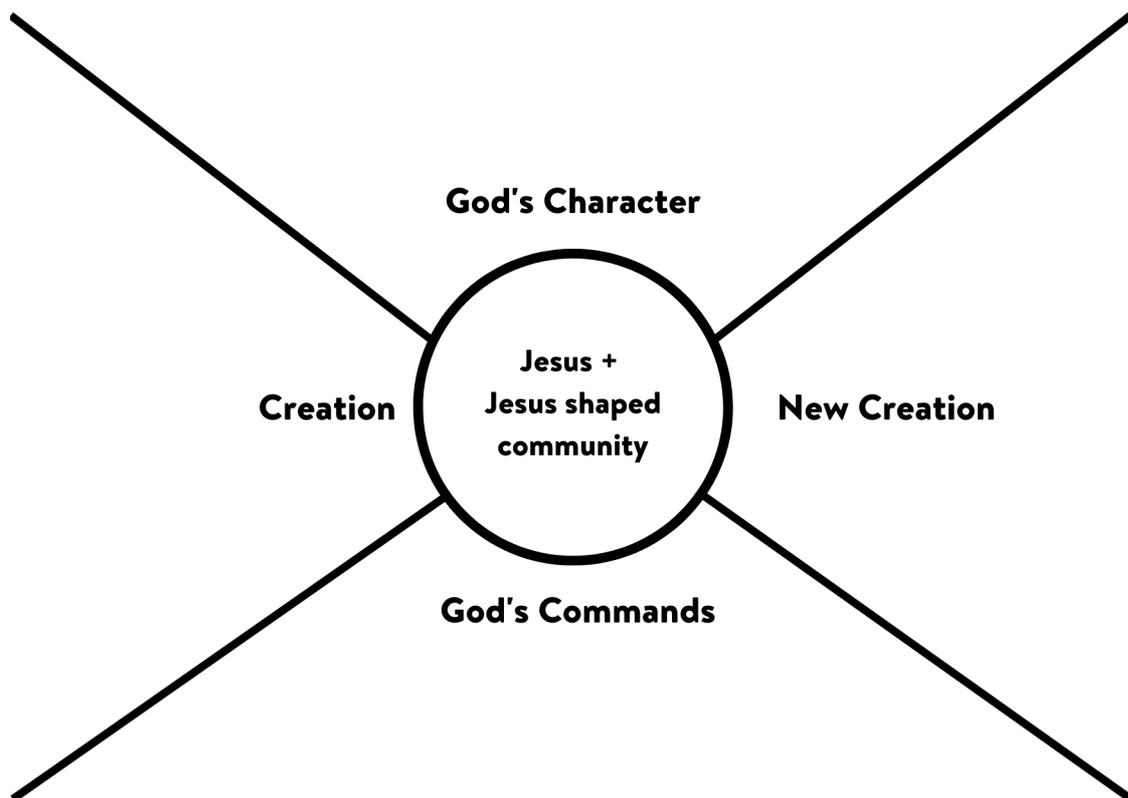
**Creation bible verses:** Gen 1:27-28, 2:7 (embodied spirits – physical and spiritual beings), 1 Kings 19:1-8,

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Romans 7:21-25, Job 3:24-26 (Job's experiences impact his feelings), psalm 51 (forgiveness offered no matter history), Gen 3:14-19 (Sin brought suffering into the world but not all suffering is from sin – John 9:1-7)

**Commands bible verses:** Matthew 6:24-34, Matt 6:25-34,

**Cross + Community bible verses:** 1 Cor 12:21-26, Eph 1:3-8 (who we are in Christ despite our feelings), Matt 4:23-25, James 4:13-17, Luke 22:44, 1 Peter 5:6-11, Matt 11:28-30, Matt 26:32-42, Phil 4:4-7 (note joy is different to happiness), Rom 5:3-5.

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Rev 21:1-4,



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Sex

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of sex raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about sex?**

**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

Working out how sex links with marriage, family, procreation – and how these in turn link to the church and to heaven is vital to understanding sex and God's plans for humanity. These verses will begin that journey.

**Character bible verses:** Genesis 1:26-2:3, 1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 John 4:8, 16

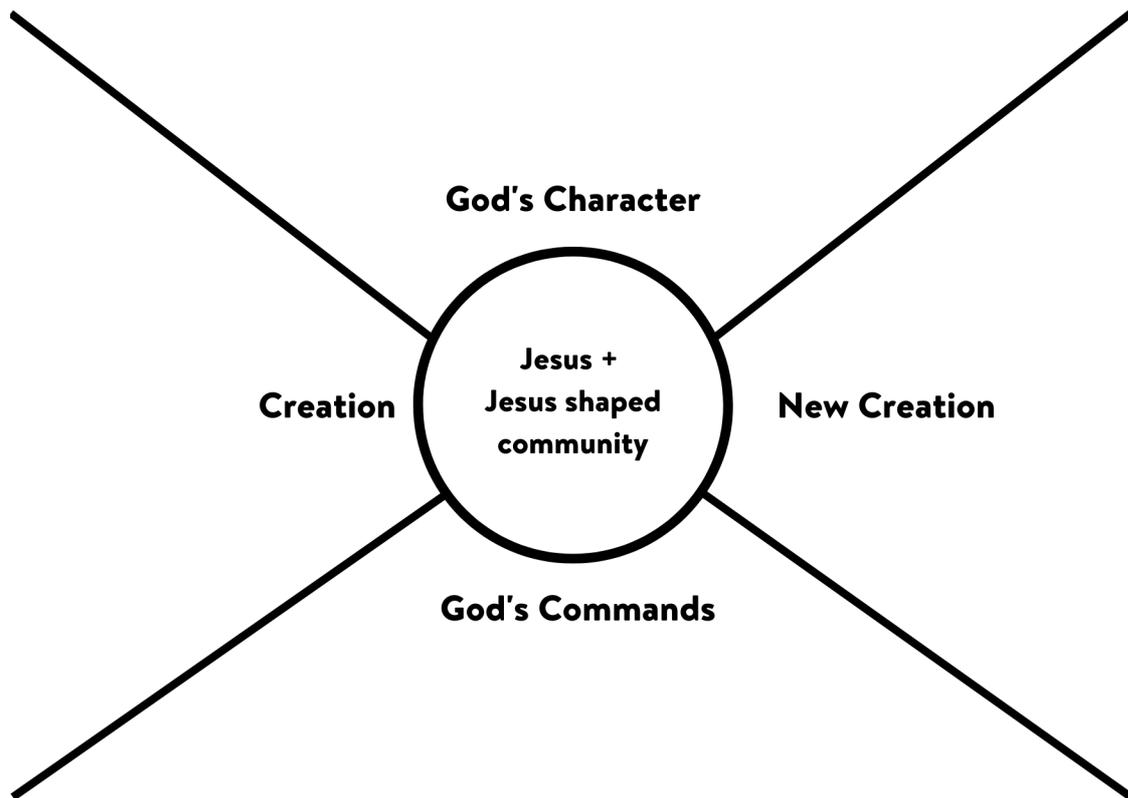
**Creation bible verses:** Genesis 1:26-2:3, Genesis 2:18-25, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Hebrews 13:4

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Leviticus 18, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Peter 4:4

**Commands bible verses:** Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 6:9-17, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, Galatians 5:13-21, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

**Cross + Community bible verses:** 2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Galatians 2:20

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Luke 20:34-36



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Possessions

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of possessions raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about possessions?**  
**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

*The below bible verses cover a multitude of themes associated with our possessions from what we have been given, stewardship, greed, inheritance and contentment. The bible tends to encourage us to consider what we have as given from God and letting God's generosity influence our own view on possessions.*

**Character bible verses:** 2 Cor 9:1-15, Mark 12:41-44, Prov 30:8-9, Ephesians 5:3, Col 3:5, Ps 112:5, Prov 11:25-22:9, James 1:17, Matt 5:43-48, Job 1:20-21

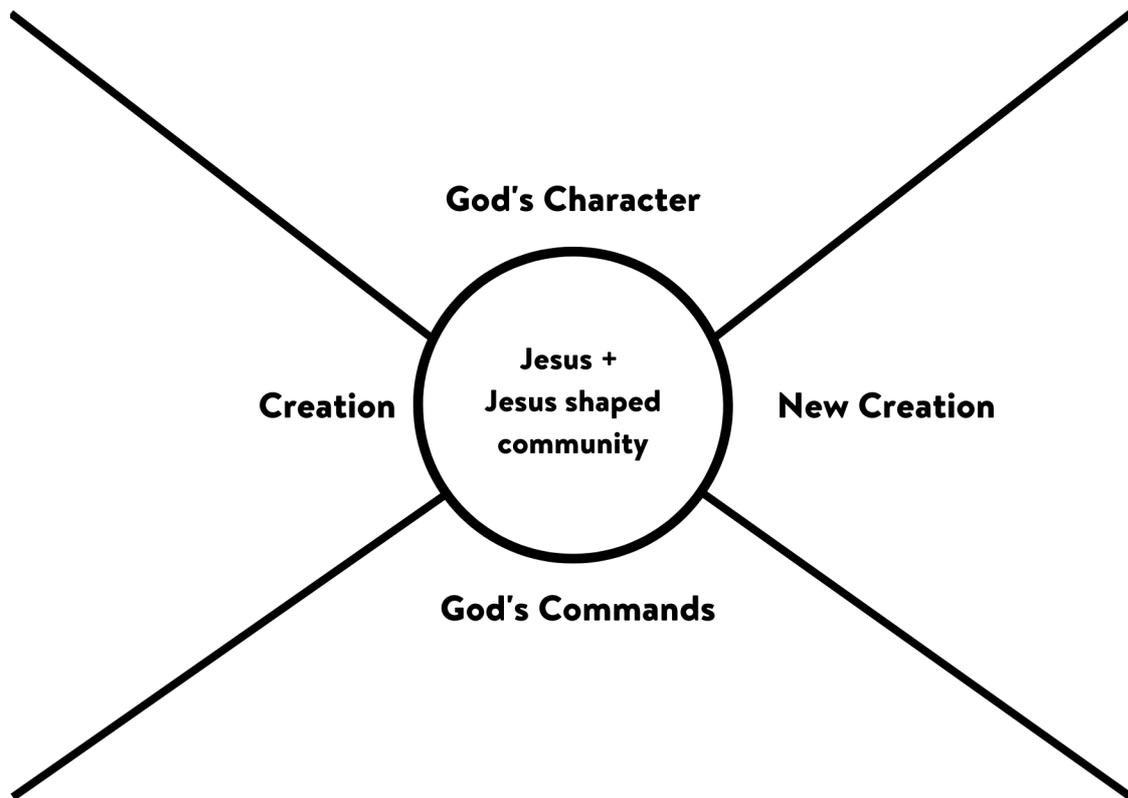
**Creation bible verses:** Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1, Revelation 4:11, Gen 2:15-17, Job 41:11 (

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Gen 3:1-7, Luke 11:37-44, Luke 12:13-21,

**Commands bible verses:** Matt 6:1-4, 19-24, Matt 6:25-34, Exodus 20:3-11, 17, Deut 6:4-10 (note the word for "strength" includes possessions), Deut 22:1-4, 23:19-20, Deut 24:14-15, Deut 24:19-22, 26:1-15,

**Cross + Community bible verses:** 1 Tim 6:6-10, 1 Tim 6:17-21, Acts 4:32-37, Phil 4:10-20, Luke 16:1-14, Matt 25:14-30,

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Luke 16:1-14, Matt 25:14-30, Isaiah 65:17, Rev 21:1-8



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Gambling

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of gambling raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about gambling?**  
**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

*Gambling is a zero-sum game. In this it is entirely unlike work or investment, despite superficial similarities. The passages below focus on love of neighbour, stealing, and the place of material wealth in the life of the Christian.*

**Character bible verses:** Deut 10:17–18, Matt 22:34–40, John 15:8–14, Rom 12:2, 1 Cor 13:1–7, Col 3:12–14, 1 John 2:15–17

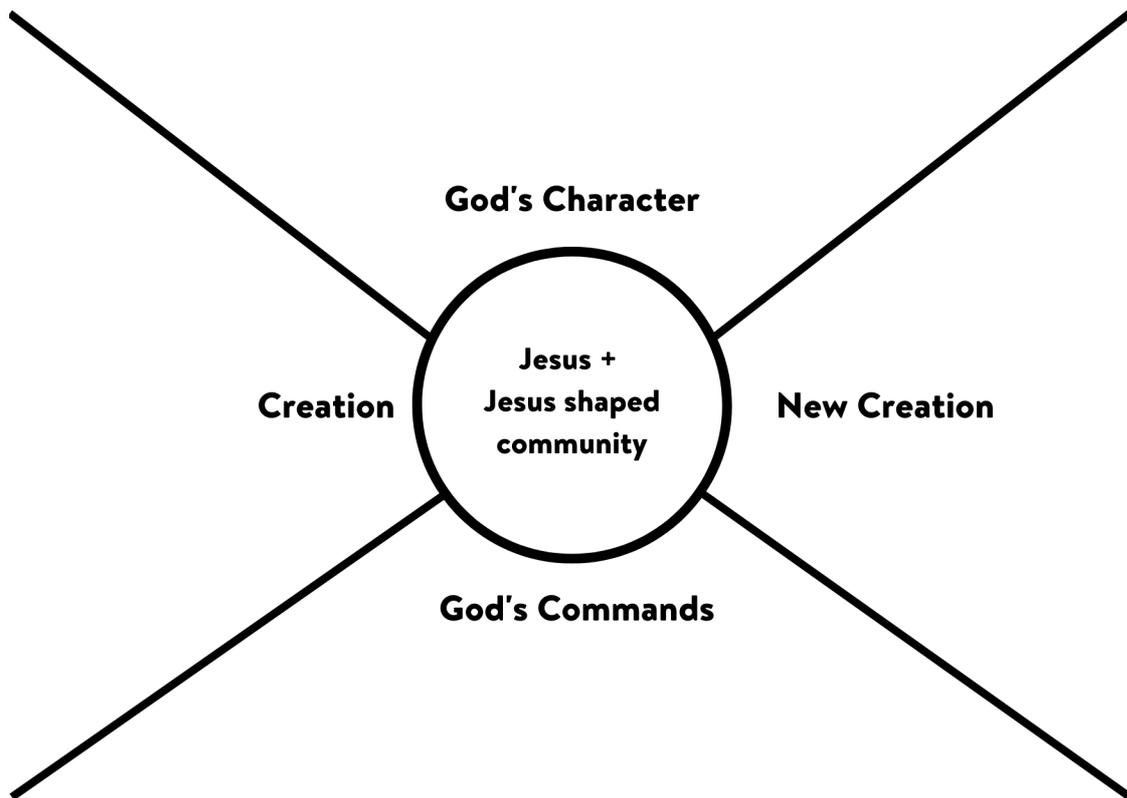
**Creation bible verses:** Prov 28:19, Eccles. 2:24; 9:7–9

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Jas 4:13–5:6

**Commands bible verses:** Exod 20:15, 17, Deut 24:14, Isaiah 1:17, Rom 13:9–10, 2 Thess 3:6–12, 1 John 2:15–17

**Cross + Community bible verses:** Deut 10:17–18, 1 Tim 5:8, 1 Tim 6:17–19, 1 Thess 5:8, 2 Thess 3:6–12, Col 3:12–14, 1 John 4:7–5:5

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** 1 Thess 5:8, 1 John 2:15–17



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# IVF

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of IVF raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about IVF?**  
**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

*Some explanation. A number of the below demonstrate the preservation of the imago dei (Image of God) in mankind, charting its inception (pun intended) in creation, its distortion yet continued existence through the fall, and then its consummation first in Christ himself and then cumulatively in his people until the New Creation. All of this has implications for how we define 'personhood', where we consider human life to begin, and for the consequences of taking human life.*

*Further passages address a parent's obligations to their children (Deut 6; 1 Tim 5) and call us to model our treatment of the vulnerable on the Lord's care for them (Isa 1; Deut 10:17; 24:14).*

**Character bible verses:** Deut 10:17–18, Matt 22:34–40

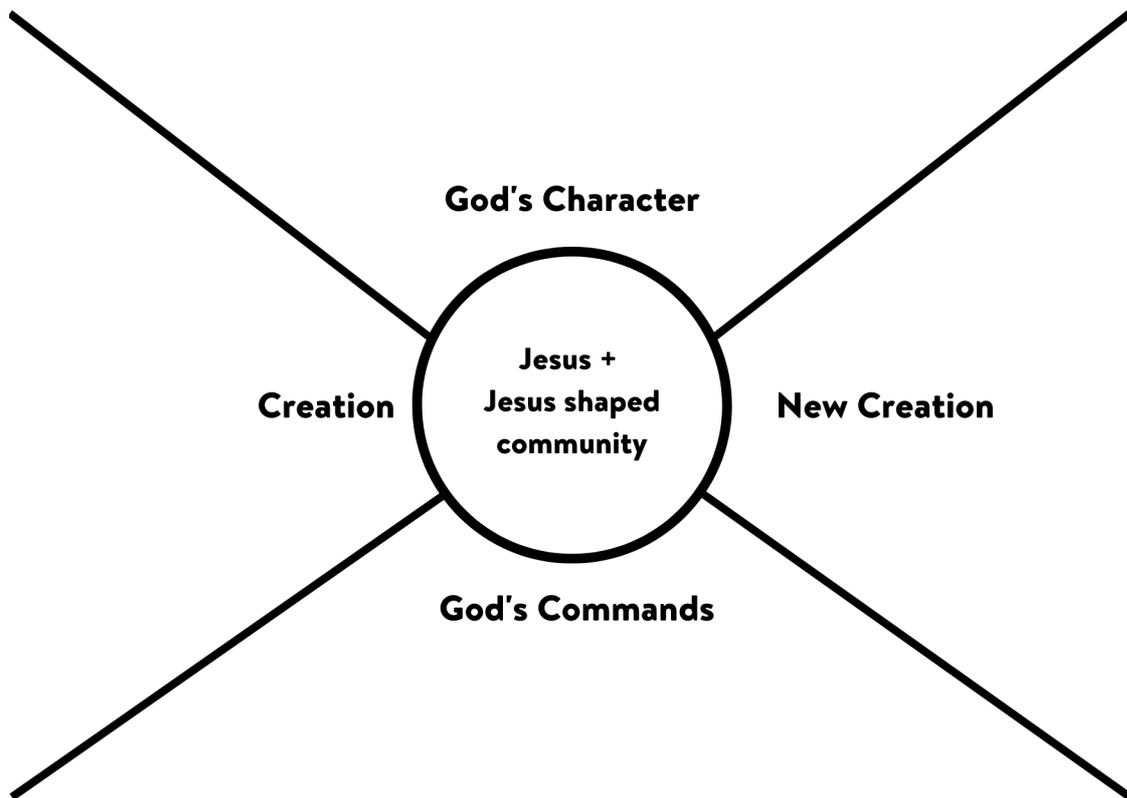
**Creation bible verses:** Gen 1:21, 24, 25, Gen 1:26–27, Gen 2:18, Gen 5:1ff, Gen 9:6, Job 10:8–12, Ps 127:3–5, Ps 139:13–16, Prov 13:12, Matt 1:20–21, Luke 1:41–44, Luke 2:12; 18:15 (same word used to describe unborn John above used for baby Jesus and little children), Heb 4:13, Jas 3:9

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Gen 3:16

**Commands bible verses:** Exod 20:13, Exod 21:22–25 (but note translation difficulties), Num 35:16–24, 30–34, Deut 6:6–7, Deut 24:14, Deut 25:5–6, Isaiah 1:17, Matt 22:34–40

**Cross + Community bible verses:** Gen 2:18, Deut 10:17–18, Mk 3:31–35, Mk 10:28–31, Rom 8:29, Col 1:15, Heb 1:1–4, Col 3:10, 1 Tim 5:8

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Rom 8:29, 1 Cor 7:26, 29–34, Phil 3:12–14



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

- 5. Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Alcohol

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
2. **What questions does the topic of alcohol raise?**
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
4. **What does the bible say about alcohol?**  
**A** - Use the bible passages below and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

**Character bible verses:** Galatians 5:22-25

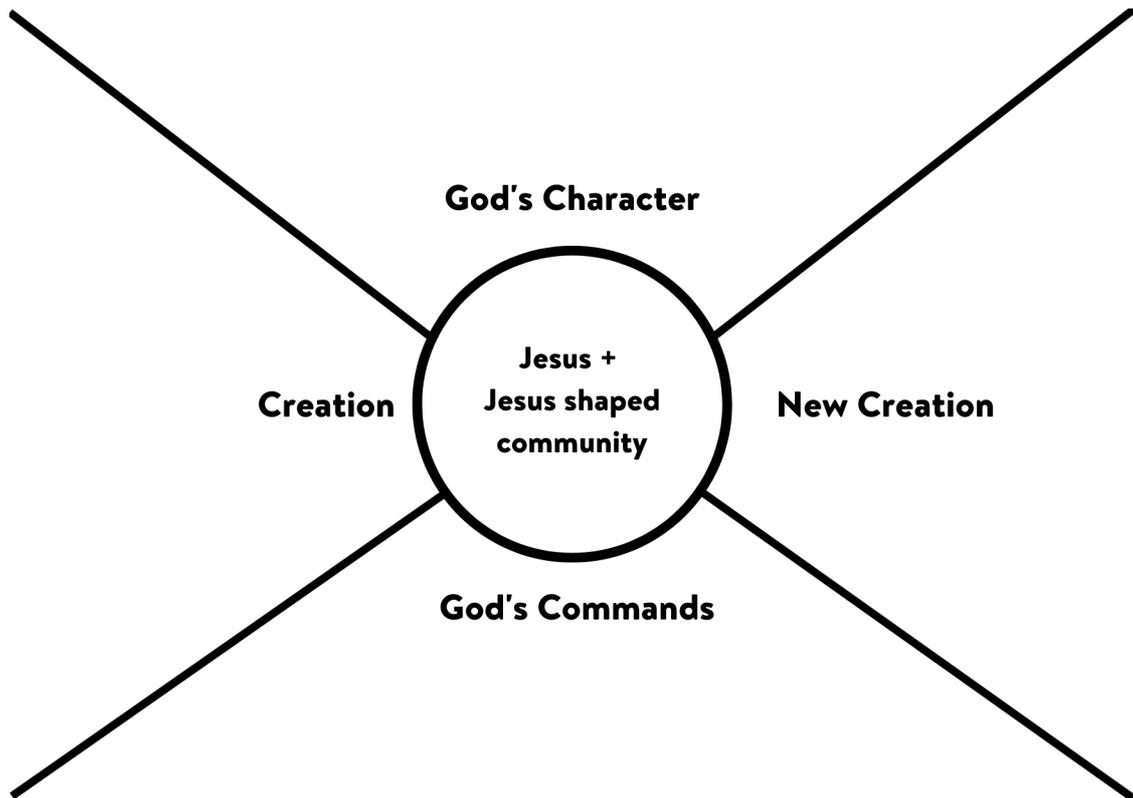
**Creation bible verses:** Genesis 27:28 Judges 9:13, Psalm 104:15, Proverbs 31:6-7, Ecclesiastes 10:19, Isaiah 5:22, 1 Timothy 5:23

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Joel 3:18, Amos 9:13-14, Matthew 26:27-29

**Commands bible verses:** Mark 12:31, 1 Corinthians 6:12, 9:19-23, 1 Timothy 3:3, 3:8, 2 Peter 2:19

**Cross + Community bible verses:** John 2:1-11, Ephesians 5:18

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Proverbs 20:1, 23:21, 23:29-35, 31:4-5, Isaiah: 5:11, 24:9, 28:7, 29:9, 56:12, Habakkuk 2:15, 1 Corinthians 6:10, Galatians 5:21



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

- 5. Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** We'll compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

# Culture

1. **Remind ourselves** - No matter your experience with this issue Jesus offers love and forgiveness for those who come to him. Let's explore both the difficulties of this issue and the beauty of Jesus' wisdom in the scriptures together.
  
2. **What questions does the topic of culture raise?**
  
3. **What differing opinions are there? Why may it be an issue?**
  
4. **What does the bible say about culture? –**
  - A. Use the below passages and any others you can think of to fill out the provided framework (ideally on a whiteboard or butchers' paper).

**Character bible verses:** Rom 2:11, Acts 10:34-38,

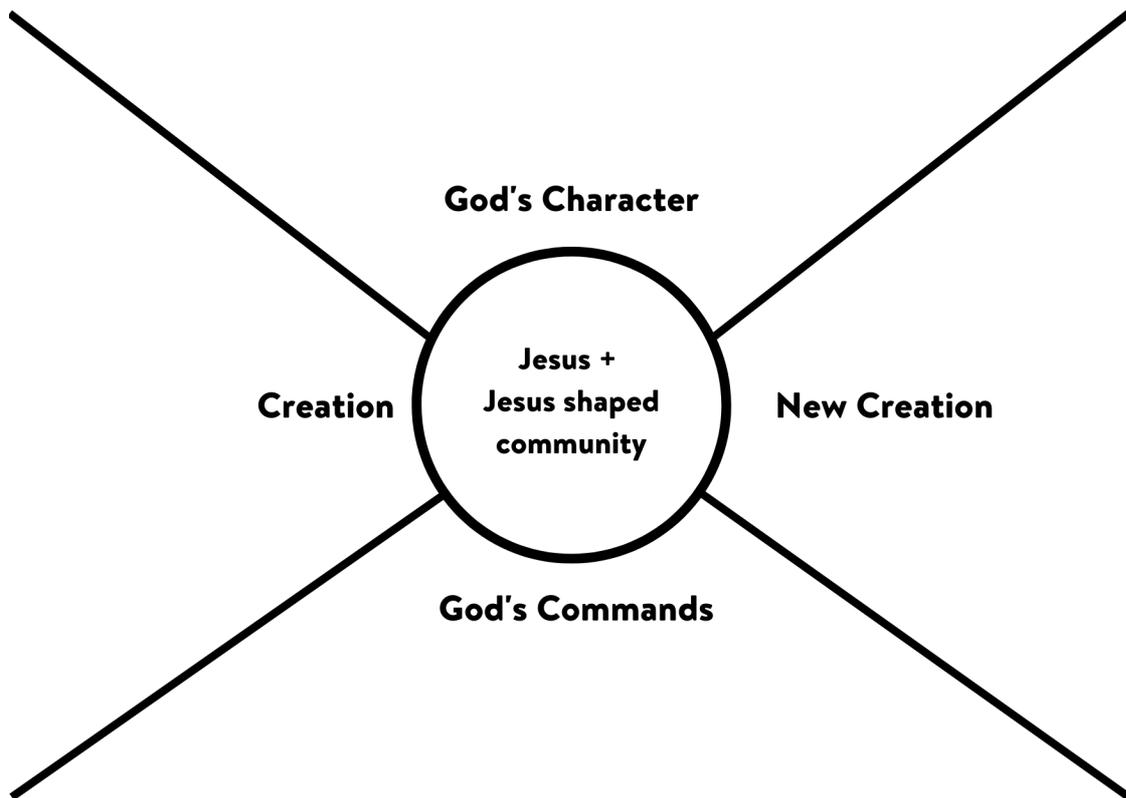
**Creation bible verses:** Gen 12:1-3 (All people of the earth will be blessed -all nations/ cultures), Matthew 28:18-19- (backs up God's promise that his blessings are for all people by design), Acts 17:26,

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Genesis 11,

**Commands bible verses:** 1 Corinthians 8 (For those who have "cultural freedoms" to use those freedoms in a loving way for those who have differing sensibilities), 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (Engage with other culture with purpose to serve and share), Matthew 28:18-19, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (commanded to "enculture" living for God in home and society),

**Cross + Community bible verses:** Colossians 2:16-23 (Our individual backgrounds cultures etc. do not qualify or disqualify from the cross), Acts 17 (Paul's approach to various cultures and attitudes), Eph 2:11-22, 2 Tim 3:14, 1 Cor 12 (unity and diversity in the kingdom of God),

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Rev 7:9-10,



**B** - Work together as a group to discuss how the bible's input may help in answering some of the questions raised on this topic from Q1.

5. **Compare by asking - How is the bible's story better?** Compare the world's view with what the bible says by considering the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

## Appendix 1- Preaching plan

Date	Engadine Morning	Engadine Night	Heathcote Morning
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Overview + Environment	Overview + Environment	Overview + Environment
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Euthanasia	Mental Health	Mental Health
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Mental Health	Euthanasia	Euthanasia
13 <sup>th</sup> August	Sex	Possessions	Possessions
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Possessions	Gambling	Gambling
27 <sup>th</sup> August	Gambling	Sex	Sex
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	IVF	Alcohol	Alcohol
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Alcohol	IVF	Culture
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Culture	Culture	TBC

## Appendix 2- Key passages for the ethical framework

**Character bible verses:** Exodus 34:6-7, Matt 11:28-30, (see also the attributes of God in Appendix 3)

**Creation bible verses:** Genesis 1-2, Revelation 4:11, John 1.

**Corruption/Sin bible verses:** Genesis 3, Rom 3:9-20.

**Commands bible verses:** Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 6, Matt 22:34-40

**Cross + Community bible verses:** There is a lot here and it depends on the topic, but the gospels tend to be the greatest resource, as well as the epistles use of the life and teaching of Jesus.

**Consummation/New creation bible verses:** Revelation 21, Hebrews 12:25-29

# Appendix 3- Attributes of God

**Attentive:** God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

**Compassionate:** God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

**Creator:** God made everything. He is uncreated.

**Deliverer:** God rescues and saves His children.

**Eternal:** God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

**Faithful:** God always keeps His promises.

**Generous:** God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**Glorious:** God displays His greatness and worth.

**Good:** God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**Holy:** God is perfect, pure and without sin.

**Incomprehensible:** God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**Infinite:** God has no limits in His person or on His power.

**Immutable/Unchanging:** God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

**Jealous:** God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

**Just:** God is fair in all His actions and judgments. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**Loving:** God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.

**Merciful:** God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

**Omnipotent/Almighty:** God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills, He can accomplish.

**Omnipresent:** God is fully present everywhere.

**Omniscient:** God knows everything: past, present, and future; all potential and real outcomes; all things micro and macro.

**Patient/Long-Suffering:** God is untiring and bears with His children.

**Provider:** God meets the needs of His children.

**Refuge:** God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

**Righteous:** God is always good and right.

**Self-Existent:** God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

**Self-Sufficient:** God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**Sovereign:** God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

**Transcendent:** God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**Truthful:** Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**Wrathful:** God hates all unrighteousness.

**Wise:** God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**Worthy:** God deserves all glory and honour and praise