A 28 Day Devotional Workbook on the Five PLAN A Principles

Read the Gospel

Read one chapter of Matthew with each day.
This will be the most important part of this journey.

Tick them off each day along the way.

- ☐ Matthew 1
- ☐ Matthew 2
- ☐ Matthew 3
- ☐ Matthew 4
- ☐ Matthew 5
- ☐ Matthew 6
- ☐ Matthew 7
- ☐ Matthew 8
- ☐ Matthew 9
- ☐ Matthew 10
- ☐ Matthew 11
- ☐ Matthew 12
- ☐ Matthew 13
- ☐ Matthew 14
- ☐ Matthew 15
- ☐ Matthew 16
- ☐ Matthew 17
- ☐ Matthew 18
- ☐ Matthew 19
- ☐ Matthew 20
- ☐ Matthew 21
- ☐ Matthew 22
- ☐ Matthew 23
- ☐ Matthew 24
- ☐ Matthew 25
- ☐ Matthew 26
- ☐ Matthew 27
- ☐ Matthew 28

PLAN A

When you look at the world what do you see?

Purpose, hope and a plan?

That's what Jesus sees. "PLAN A" is for his disciples to bring good news to all people - there is no Plan B.

The plan is simple

Disciples are to keep growing, invest in knowing others and sowing gospel seeds, working with others by rowing together and keep showing up, even when it feels like we are rowing upstream.

It's Jesus' plan and he will make it work.

SCAN ME

If this is your first time thinking about the PLAN A principles (or you'd like a refresher) watch this ten minute video which summarises PLAN A before you start. Scan the QR code or follow the link. https://vimeo.com/623806173

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted.

Then Jesus came to them and said *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:16-20

DAY 1

Start Here

Read and re-read Matthew 28:16-20.

Soak it all in.

Circle the parts that inspire you.

Underline the parts that challenge you.

Highlight the parts that surprise you.

Don't let any part of the plan go unnoticed.

Which parts of this plan am I committed to the most?

Where do I need to grow?

DAY 2

Write out Matthew 28:16-20 using a different translation or in your own words.

What stood out to you?

DAY 3

Jesus' plan is for *people* to go to *people* with the good news. He could have chosen angels, stones or donkeys. But he chose you, knowing all your weaknesses and fears.

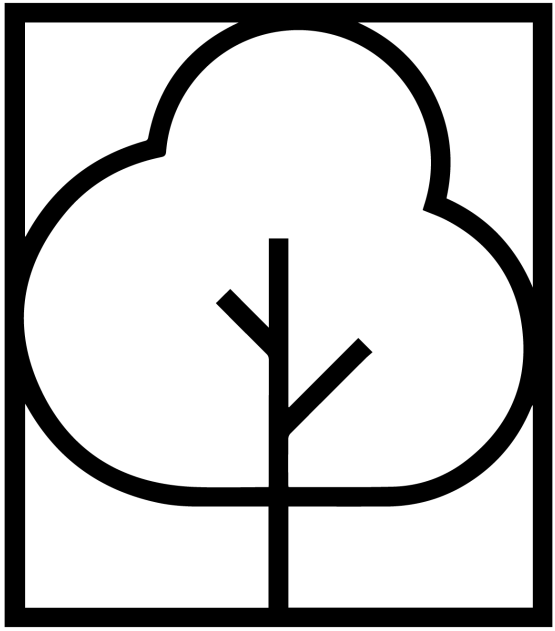
Why might he do that?

Write a prayer response.

Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Matthew 28:18



GROWING

The Gospel

The Risen Jesus comes to his worshipping disciples and tells them the gospel: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me".

This is the gospel - "Jesus is the Risen King".

This is the good news that christians believe has changed the world.

The gospel is not "God wants you to be a good person to goto heaven." The gospel is not "live a moral life". The gospelis not "you need religion". The gospel is not even about us, it's all about Jesus, the Risen King.

Now that's good news.

DAY 4

When the disciples looked for a word to describe their message they didn't pick "religion", "optional extra", "condemnation" or"advice". They picked "good news".

Fill this box with reasons the gospel is good news.

Discuss with someone your responses to the last four days.

What are you hearing from God, and what are you going to do about it?

"The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history.

Yet we allow thousands of professing Christians to live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing the joy of living by it."

Jerry Bridges

Life Changing News

"Jesus is the Risen King", is a message so simple, but so profound. It has changed the lives of emperors and orphans.

Are you experiencing the joy of living it?

Or are you trying to earn your own way into the Kingdom?The call of Jesus is to turn from that way of thinking and trust in him. He has already paid for your sins – all of them! He has risen from the dead – he promises to give you life if you trust him. And he is now ruling over everything – will you trust Jesus as the Risen King? Will you give your life to his loving rule?

All of it?

DAY 5

Reflect on each word of the statement "Jesus is the Risen King". In the boxes below write your reflections on what each word contributes to the gospel message.

Write down as many ideas as you can for each word.

Jesus
is
the
Risen
King

DAY 6

If your relationship with Jesus was represented by a tree,what condition would the tree be in? How are the roots? What fruit is there? What can you start this week to havea healthier tree in three months?

Draw and label that tree in the box below.

"The gospel is not just the A-B-C's but the A-Z of Christianity. The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make progress in the kingdom."

Timothy Keller

DAY 7

What have you learned about Jesus as you have read chapters 1-7 of Matthew?

Can you think of three ways you can grow in living outJesus' teaching?

1.

2.

3.

DAY 8

Read over the Great Commission again (Matthew 28:16-20).

Imagine being a disciple on that mountain in Galilee, where you get to be with the Risen Jesus! Do you ever forget how amazing it is that you can be with Jesus?

On the next page, either draw a picture of the discipleswith Jesus or make a list of words that could describewhat the disciples were feeling (or both).

How do you feel about your time with Jesus?

What actions can you take to cherish time with Jesus?

"When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted."

Matthew 28:17

DAY 9

How do you think worship and doubt are related?

What do you tend to tend to do with your doubts? How can we make room for doubt in our journey?

Discuss with someone your responses to the last five days.

What are you hearing from God, and what are you going to do about it?

"Come, follow me" Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people".

"Come".
They were invited to be friends with Jesus. To eat with him, travel with him andlaugh with him.

"Follow".
They were to learn from him how to be a friend to others. There can be no friendship with Jesus without following.

"Fish".
Matthew chapter 10 sees the disciples sent out on a training mission where they will extend the same invitation:

Friendship with Jesus,
Follow behind Jesus,
Fish for Jesus.

Have you responded to every

part of Jesus' invitation?

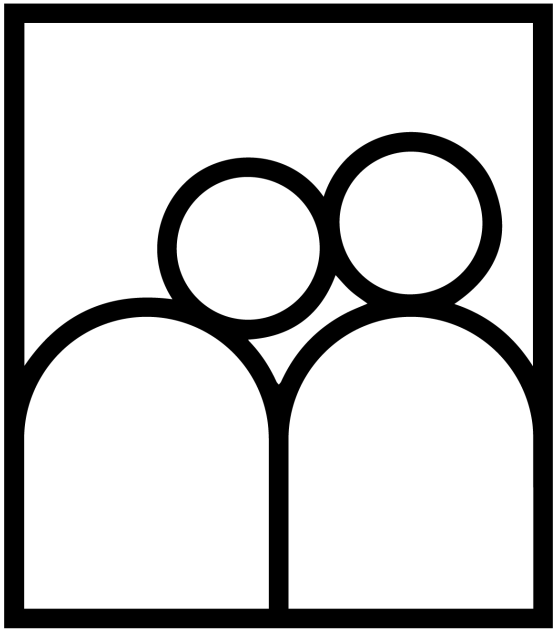
Friendship.

Follow.

Fish

What's your next step?

Are you ready to live out the principles of PLAN A?



KNOWING

DAY 10

Read Matthew Chapter 10.

The disciples were to accept the hospitality of others.

List the people who make you feel welcome and joyfully help you out.

Why is it important to let others help you?

How can you get better at letting others help you?

DAY 11

Reflect on the people in your life who told you about Jesus.

How did the relationships you had with these people influence your beliefs?

Is there a non-Christian in your life that you have a good relationship with? Write there name in this box and pray for them. Ask God to reveal himself to them.

Life is meant to be shared

Who do you share life with?

Who is there when you work, rest or play?

Relationships are built at tables, tennis courts and over tea pots. There is no shortcut to getting to know others.
It takes time. Loving others is not a distraction from the mission, it doesn't take time away from the "real work". Building loving, authentic relationships with people is the way of Jesus.

So thank God for your people.

And love them.

Love them like you love yourself.

DAY
12

The Disciples were to be generous on mission "freely youhave received; freely give".

Think of four ways you can show God's generosityto the people around you.

"You drift through life and let things happen to you,

or

go by design and say, 'This is what I'm intended to do.'"

Rick Warren

DAY 13

What passions do you have?

What do you care about?

What would you make time for, even if you were tired?

Are there other Christians who share this passion?

Ask around. Turn your passion into a community and do it together. Your love for one another will serve as a witness to the others in your group and naturally lead to opportunities to invite, share or serve.

How can your passions led to relationships with others?

DAY 14

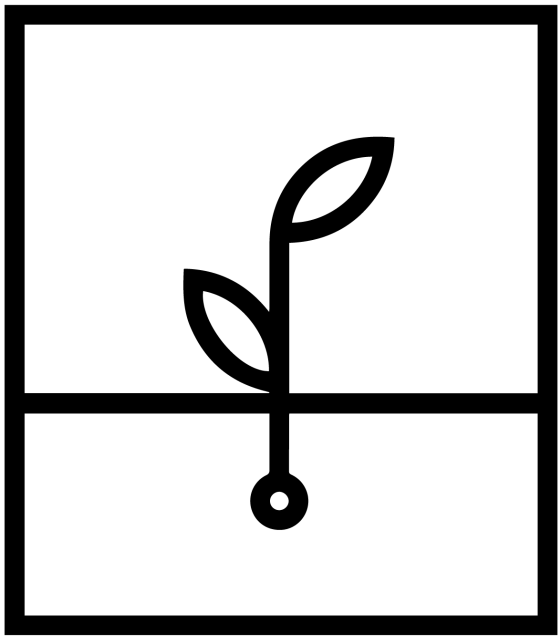
In the social media age, we are more connected than ever.But ironically, we are more disconnected than ever from thepeople right in front of us.

We will need to be intentional if we are going to keep connections real and authentic.

Write in this box words that describe how it feels when you are noticed and included.

Discuss with someone your responses to the last five days.

What are you hearing from God, and what are you going to do about it?



SOWING

"A farmer went out to sow his seed."

Matthew 13:3

DAY 15

Ever held a seed in your hand? Inside that tiny seed is life waiting to grow.

Draw a tiny seed beginning to grow.

How is it helpful to think of conversations about faith as "sowing seeds", rather than planting trees?

DAY 16

Reflect on the people in your life who told you about Jesus.

What did they say that was helpful?

Pray for an opportunity to sow a seed about Jesus through conversations. Write your prayer below.

Share your story

You Have An Incredible Story

God has written your story and carried you through it. Your vulnerabilities, hopes, fears, strengths and passions have all been woven into your story to bring glory to God.

An important part of discovering how to share your faith is remembering what you have to share. You know the good news that Jesus is the Risen King. Your life has been changed by his love and mercy. He has made you new.

Are you willing to open up to someone else and let them see what God has done for you?

DAY 17

Every good conversation involves a partner who is willingto listen. When you listen to someone you may not say much, but you are speaking love into their life.

List four spiritual questions that are curious - not judgmental

1.

2.

3.

4.

Is there someone you could ask one of these?

"Connection is the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement."

Brene Brown

DAY 18

Do you ever condemn yourself for not speaking up?

Do you feel like you aren't a worthy Christian because you aren't bold enough?

Guilt and fear are not what Jesus wants from you.

In Matthew chapter 18 Jesus tells us to be like little children. Humble, dependent and full of hope our Heavenly Fatherwill take care of us. You don't lose God's love when you lose your nerve. You are loved, so very much.

Draw your response to this in the box below.

DAY 19

How easy is it for you to speak about Jesus withother christians? Place a cross on the line below.

1 5 10

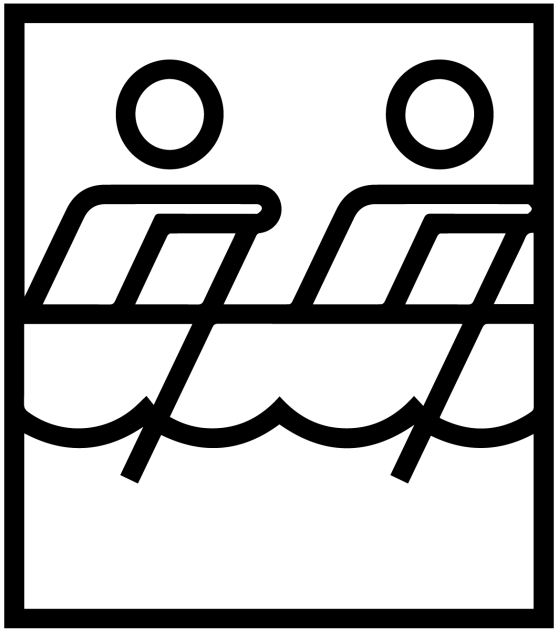
(1 = very difficult to 10= very easy)

What could help you be more at ease speaking about Jesus with other Christians?

Commit to sharing with your devotional partner what you have been learning about Jesus from Matthew's Gospel

Discuss with someone your responses to the last five days.

What are you hearing from God, and what are you going to do about it?



ROWING

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden"

Matthew 5:14

DAY 20

From the moment Jesus chose 12 disciples, he signalled his plan would involve a community. We are all in this together. We are a team, "rowing" together. We are not an isolated shack inthe middle of the forest, we are a town on a hill.

Who is in your "town" who helps strengthen yourfaith and your witness?

How can you invest in someone else to help themgrow as witnesses for Jesus?

DAY 21

Do you know a faith community or organisation that is very good at outreach? What do they do well?

What talents do you have to contribute?

What steps are you willing to take to help your community improve at outreach?

DAY 22

In the parable of the wedding banquet (from today's reading in Matthew 22) the servants go to the street corners and invite the goodand the bad.

Is your church a place where all are inviting?

Write down four ways your church can be welcoming to everyone.

1.

2.

3.

4.

DAY 23

What words describe the relationship your church\faith organisation has with the wider community?

1.

Who in the community is thankful your church exists?

2.

How can you help your church\faith organisation build relationships with your community?

3.

DAY 24

Jesus says the end will come after the gospel of the kingdom is preached in the whole world (Matt 24:14). His plan is for the church to take the gospel everywhere.

How well does your church reflect the cultural diversity of the suburb in which it is situated? Why do you think this is?

How can your church become a place that extends hospitality and welcome to people from all different cultures?

How does your church support missions to people from other places and languages?

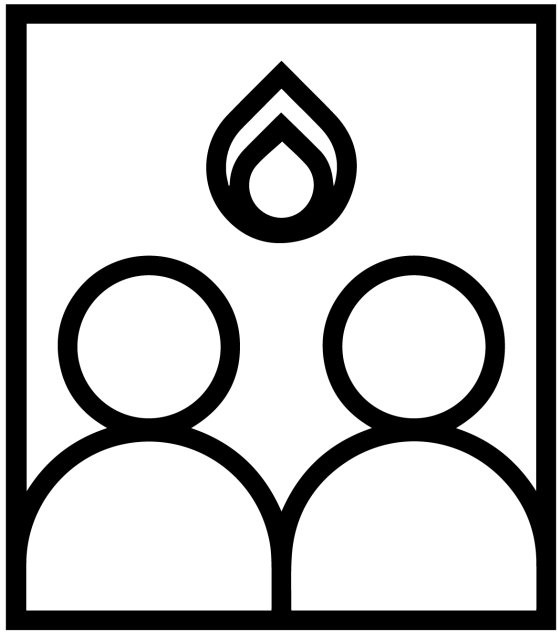
Ask a missionary "how can we better support you?' and write your commitment to them here.

Discuss with someone your responses to the last five days.

What are you hearing from God, and what are you going to do about it?

"A church that is not a missionary church is contradicting itself and quenching the spirit."

Lausanne Covenant



SHOWING UP

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Matthew 24:35

DAY 25

Sometimes we convince ourselves that living on mission is too hard, too "out there" or too costly.

What if living on mission was as simple as partnering with others to "look after the least of these," practicing hospitality, caring for the poor and visiting the sick.

What is rewarding about living this way?

How can you learn to live this way? Is there someone you can learn from?

DAY 26

Read today's chapter, Matthew 26.

List all the ways Matthew 26 shows us followingJesus will be difficult.

What comfort do you get from the Last Supper?

"Take and eat, this is my body"

You are PLAN A

Maybe you are a gifted evangelist, maybe you aren't.
Maybe you have a theology degree, maybe you don't.
Maybe you are a raging extrovert, maybe you aren't.

The first disciples were a small group of doubting believers living with people willing to kill them for loyalty to Jesus.

All the odds were stacked against them. But the plan to make disciples worked. The gospel is being shared around the world. Why? Because Jesus will grow his kingdom. All we need to do is depend on the power and presence of Jesus.

So we pray, and we pray, and we pray and we go.

We show up.

Jesus does the rest.

DAY 27

Why should we pray?

List three things that change when we pray.

1.

2.

3.

Who are you praying for to come to know Jesus?

Don't give up. Keep showing up in prayer.

DAY 28

Reflect on the change that happens in Matthew 28 – from women expecting to find a dead body to disciples worshiping the Risen Jesus!

The resurrection changes everything!

Write a poem about the victory we find in Matthew 28.

Finish here

If you haven't already, finish reading Matthew and flick back through this journal.

What have you learned?

Where have you been encouraged?

Where have you been challenged?

Let's Get Going

Congratulations! You made it to the end of the PLAN A workbook, but this isn't the end of your PLAN A journey! PLAN A is something that you live out each day. Now you are better equipped to live out the five principles of PLAN A. Keep looking for those small everyday moments and keep writing in a PLAN A journal.

Want to go deeper into the PLAN A principles?

Did you know there are other PLAN A resources available?

Website: plana.website

Facebook: facebook.com/PlanA.socials

Email: planA@Crossover.org.au

SCAN ME

One final thing - could you "row" with us by letting us know who is using these notes? Have they helped you see how you can share your faith? Scan the QR code or click the link to send feedback to PLAN A. We love hearing your stories and suggestions! https://forms.office.com/r/BsALrpk8iK

PLAN A is a collaboration between Baptist Association of NSW and ACT and Crossover. PLAN A was created by Belinda Lakelin.