

# Series Title: 'God's Delight in Me'

Subtitle: 'Refuel IV: Helping us be refuelled and refreshed (target 20s-40s)

## 1. Plenary Sessions: God's Delight in me (Zephaniah 3:17, 2 Samuel 22:20, Luke 15)

**Primary Aim:** Often our 20s to 40s are challenging years as we count the cost of following Jesus. During these years we work hard to work out who we are. We feel deeply our needs for love, acceptance, worth, significance, security and hope. God intended that each of those needs be met in Him, but since the Fall our tendency is to seek to meet them through the people and things around us. The Bible speaks into all of these needs and frequently tells us that God not only loves us, but delights in us (E.g., Zephaniah 3:17, 2 Samuel 22:20). Jesus tells the parable of the lost son which describes a patient and loving Father who kept a lookout for his wayward son who had taken his inheritance and left home to live it up on his own. But when the Father sees him coming back, "he was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20). At our November 'Refuel', we will wrestle with God's answers to our big questions for Value, Intimacy, Calling, Assurance, Belonging and Future.

**2. Seminar Sessions:** Two one-hour seminar slots with a selection of three seminars to choose from in each.

### Seminar Slot 1: Morning

#### A1: Am I worth it? True Value (suggested passages: Genesis 1-3, Psalm 139, Philippians 1:6)

**Blurb:** Humanity was the pinnacle of God's Creation, because He made us alone in His image and in His likeness. The advertising slogan 'Because you're worth it' is synonymous with cosmetics company L'Oreal. But God says that every person is worth it, because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. God also says that we are worth more than many sparrows. This all remains true despite the impact of the fall and how God's image in us has been marred. The good news of the gospel is that God wants to make us new creations and begin to transform us into the people He intended us to be.

#### A2. Am I loved? True Intimacy (suggested passages: John 4 & 1 John 4:7-21)

**Blurb:** We want to be loved and seek that from others. This is especially true in our pursuit of, or experience of, romantic relationships. Ultimately however, God's love is the only thing that will satisfy. Like the Woman at the well we can try to make people love us through sex. God loves us, not because we are lovely, but because He is love, and it is in His character to love. A relationship with God brings us into a new and satisfying intimacy like no other.

#### A3. Am I significant? True Calling (suggested passages: Ephesians 2:6-10, John 15:1-17)

**Blurb:** Is who you are determined by what you do, or is what you do determined by who you are? Our natural inclination is towards the former especially through our work or careers, but this will only lead to disappointment. This seminar explores how our relationship with God, will itself, bring a sense of purpose, because we are recreated in Christ to do the good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do. This perspective transforms how we approach our work as we come knowing rather than seeking that we are significant. Jesus says that significance arises not from our work, but from remaining in Christ.

### Seminar Slot 2: Afternoon

#### B1. Am I secure? True Assurance (suggested passages: Romans 8, Hebrews 10:19-39)

**Blurb:** We search for security through money or wealth or status, but they rarely satisfy. In Jesus however, security can be ours through the new assurance that comes from a relationship with Him. Paul says there is no condemnation (Rom 8:1), and that the Holy Spirit lives and ministers within us to testify that we are children of God (Rom 8:2-17). We can be assured that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:28-39) and through prayer we can enter God's presence (Heb 10:19-39).

#### B2: Am I accepted? True Belonging (suggested passages: Galatians 3:26-4:7, 1 John 2:28-3:10)

**Blurb:** The question of acceptance is a huge issue especially for those of us who have had had to face relational breakdown in our families. Instead, we will see how a relationship with God transforms our sense of belonging as we begin to see God as our good Father (Luke 11:11-13) and ourselves as His sons & daughters. This is illustrated in the idea of adoption (Eph 1:5, Gal 4:5 & Rom 8:15 & 23) and our new belonging not only as children but also as heirs.

### **B3. Am I expectant? True Future (suggested passages: Philippians 3, Revelation 21-22)**

**Blurb:** The future is a big deal for us in terms of our identity. We were made in God's image and through Christ we have been made new creations and citizens of Heaven. However, we're still a work in progress until Jesus returns, and we are transformed into His likeness. In the New Heavens & the New Earth, we will finally become the people that God intended us to be, but without all that holds us back from serving God here and now. This seminar explores how in the New Creation we will finally be the people that God made us to be.

#### **Alternative Seminar**

### **C1. Am I seeking approval? True Friendship (suggested passages: Colossians 3:22-25 ESV, Ephesians 6:5-6 ESV)**

**Blurb:** We want to be loved and tend to seek that love and approval from others. It has been said that we can be a fountain or a drain when we enter a room. If we've already been filled up with God's love, we don't have to try to impress them or ask them to love us. This seminar will consider how we cannot please both God and others – a right perspective on this will transform our relationships and allows us to focus on loving others well.