



the pilgrim  
on the journey...  
knowing the God has the  
mountains....



... to deepen



...to share



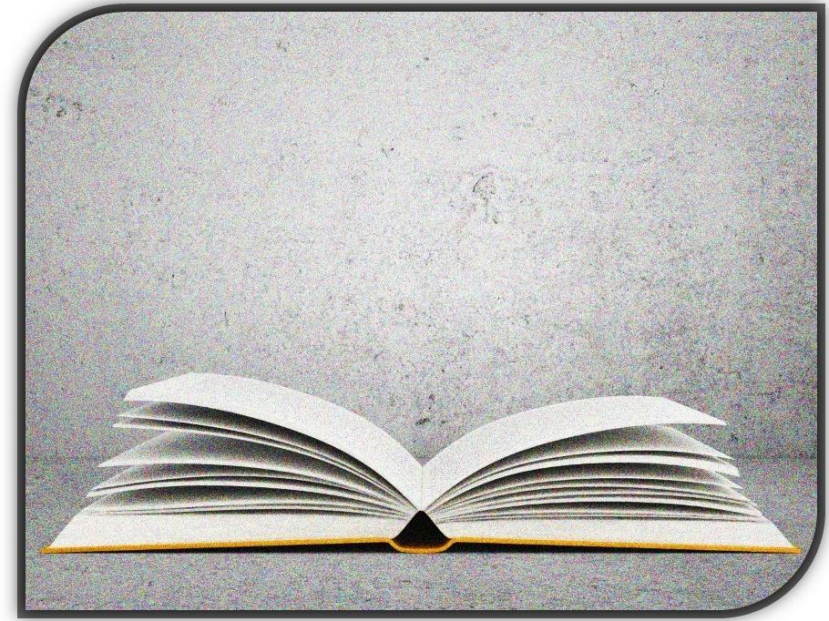
... to imagine



.....

# *Finding Naasicaa Pt. 1*

## *Letters 1-5, pp. 1-59*



## Open Book | May 14

<https://zoom.us/join>

ID = 333-262-992

PW = **openbook**

[padlet.com/david\\_benson/OpenBook](https://padlet.com/david_benson/OpenBook)



# WELCOME TO OUR

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## MALYON ALUMNI EVENT

*“Where did all the young people go?”  
Advice for a Post-Christendom Church*

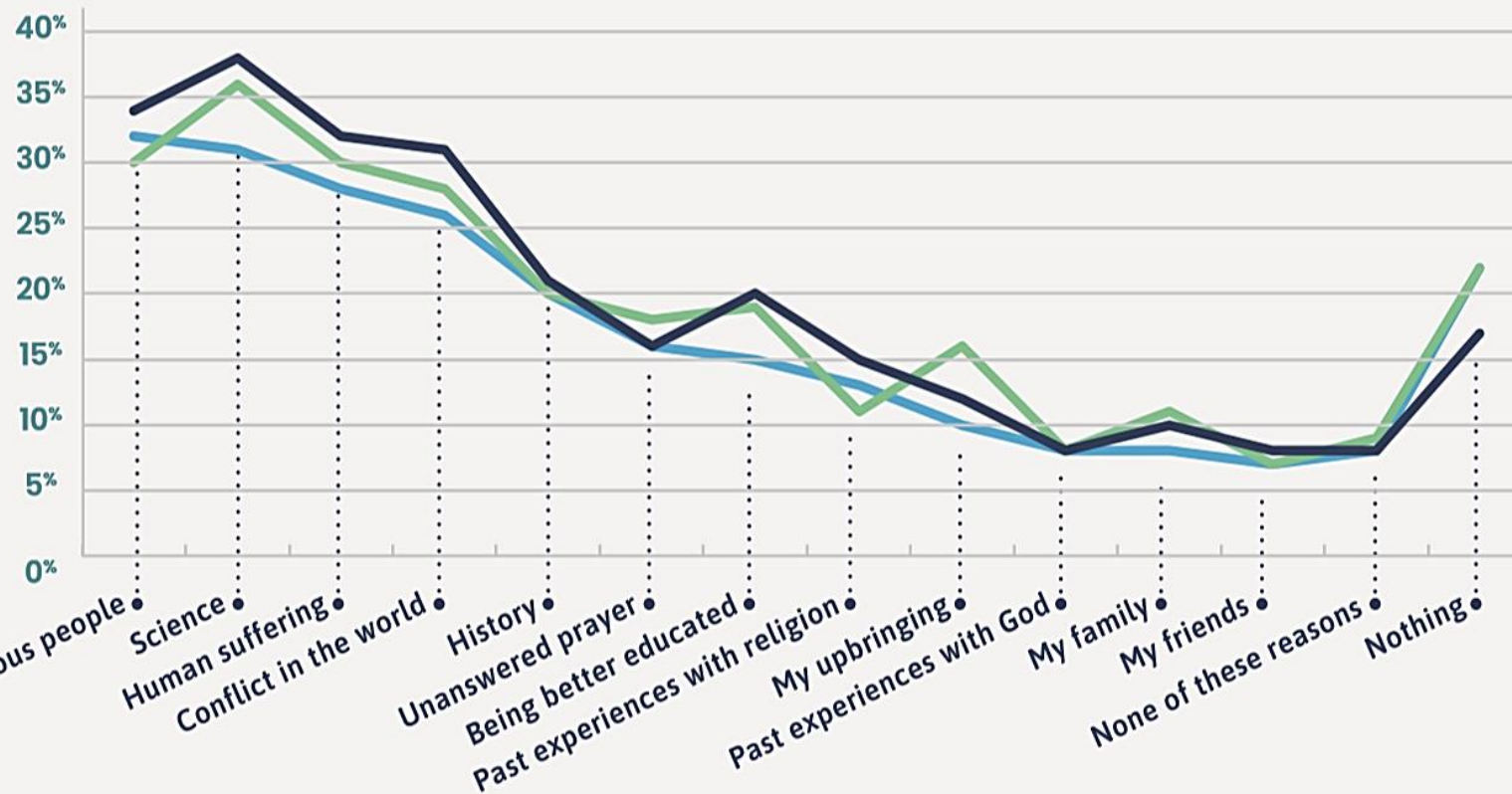




In Australia, for 18–35 year-olds, most believe in 'spiritual forces' ...

## ... BUT ARE STILL WRESTLING WITH SIGNIFICANT DOUBTS

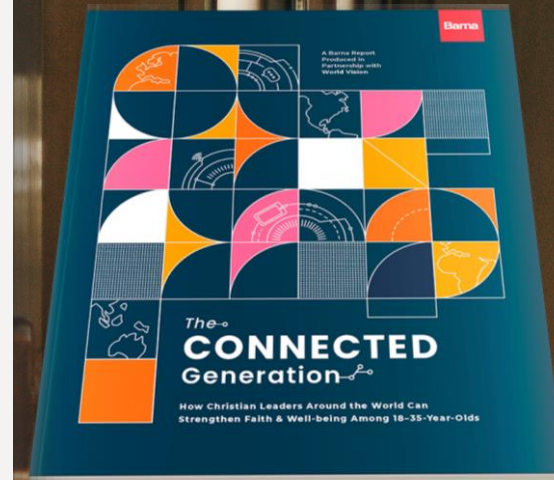
'What makes you doubt things of a spiritual dimension?'



n=15,369 adults ages 18 to 35 (including 1,071 in Australia and 567 in New Zealand), December 4, 2018–February 15, 2019.

## Australia's Generation Z Study

Australia's teenagers  
negotiating religion,  
sexuality and diversity



... However, only 40% believe religion is good for people and important to society  
~70% Christians 'drop out' | 36% prodigals + 36% nomads + 21% habitual + **8% resilient**



# Lighting of the Fires

Leader/*All*

We light a fire in the name of the Maker,  
Who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us...  
We light a fire in the name of the Son,  
Who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us...  
We light a fire in the name of the Spirit,  
Who encompasses the world  
and blesses our souls with yearning...



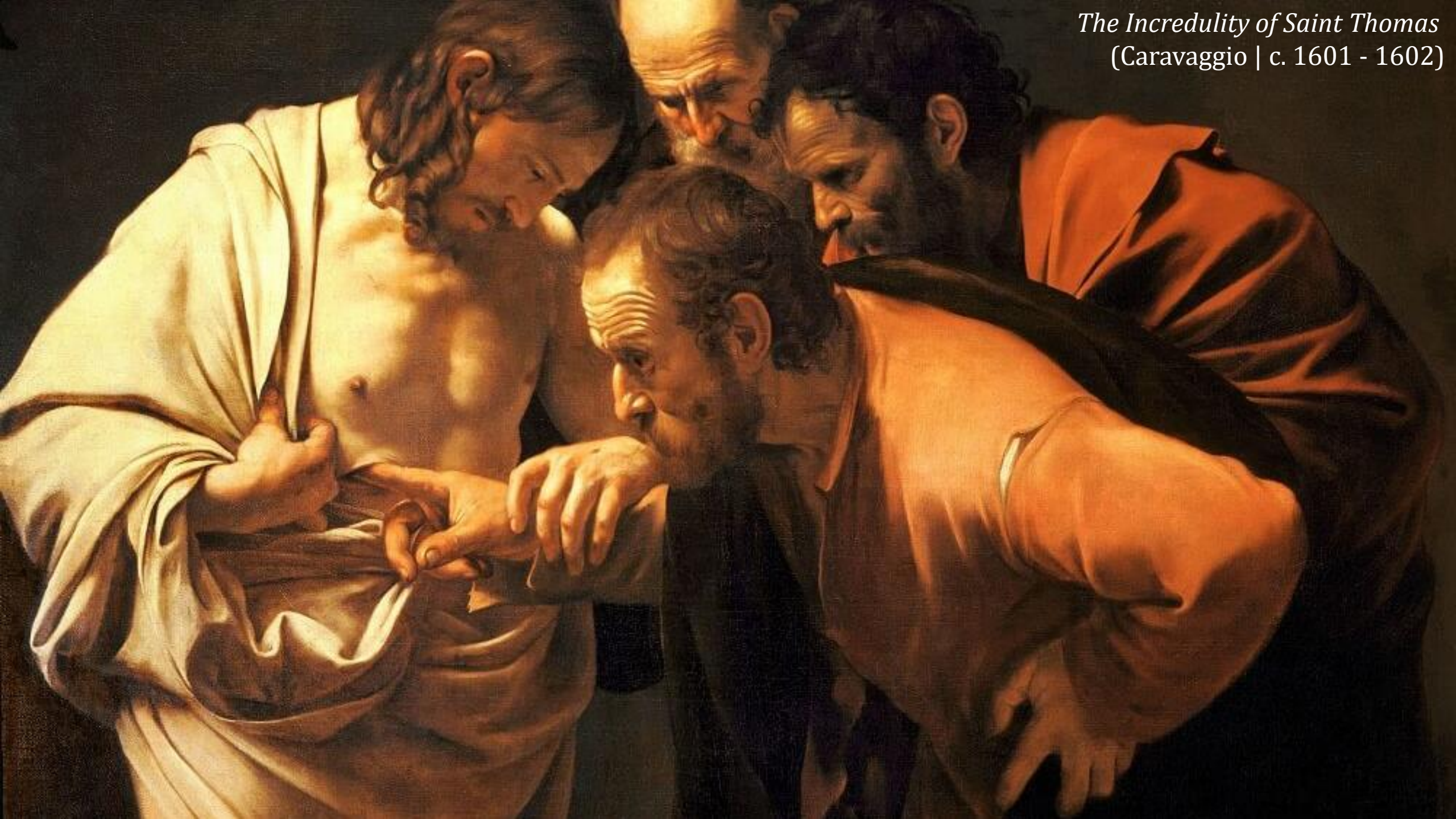
# Lighting of the Fires

Leader/*All*

*We light three fires for the trinity of love:  
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:  
The beginning, the end, the everlasting one.*



*The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*  
(Caravaggio | c. 1601 - 1602)







# Call to Worship

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***[Leader]*** “Christ is risen!”

***[Together]*** “He is risen indeed!”





# Call to Worship

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We gather:  
a community of faith in God's subversive kingdom.  
We gather to celebrate  
that no darkness can extinguish light,  
to remember  
that love will always be more powerful  
than death,  
and to trust that  
peace will always be stronger than violence.

**We gather,  
a community of faith  
in God's subversive kingdom**





*The Incredulity of Saint Thomas (Caravaggio study)*  
(Michael Miller | online [here](#))

## **Your Story**

*What does 'witness'  
look like for you?*

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*How do you share the gospel?*

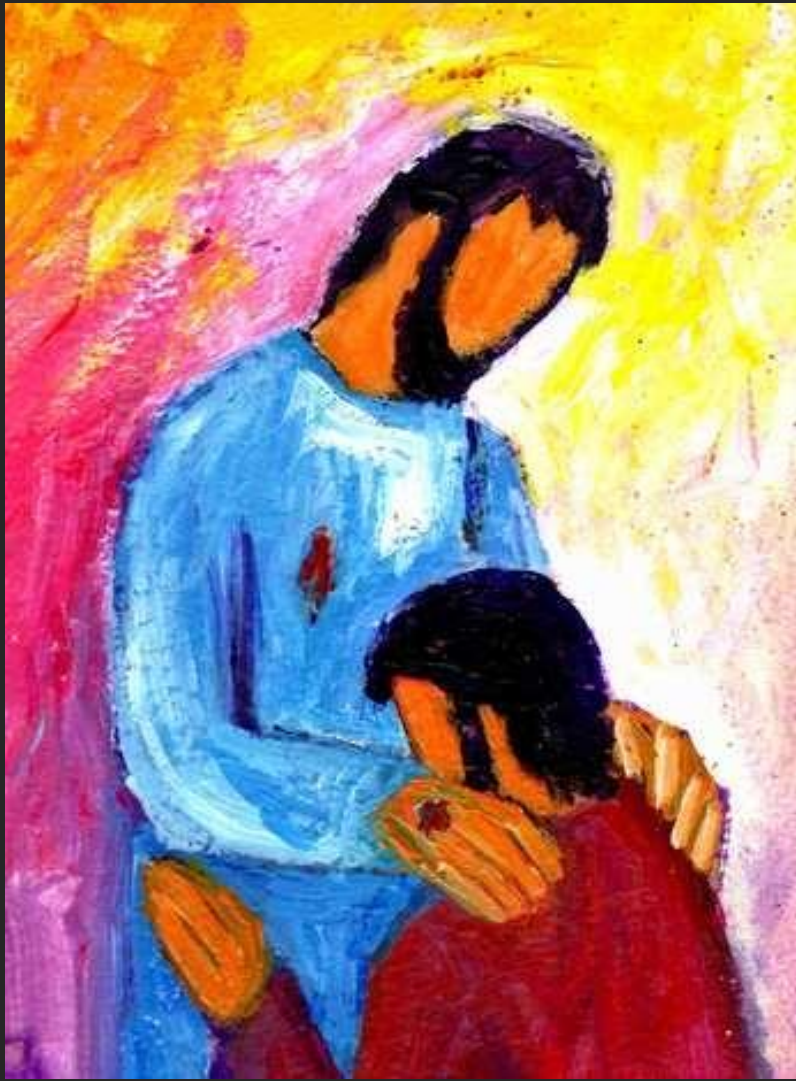
*OR*

*What's one doubt you must probe?*

*OR*

*Tell a story of why & how a young  
person you love left their faith*





# Confession

—

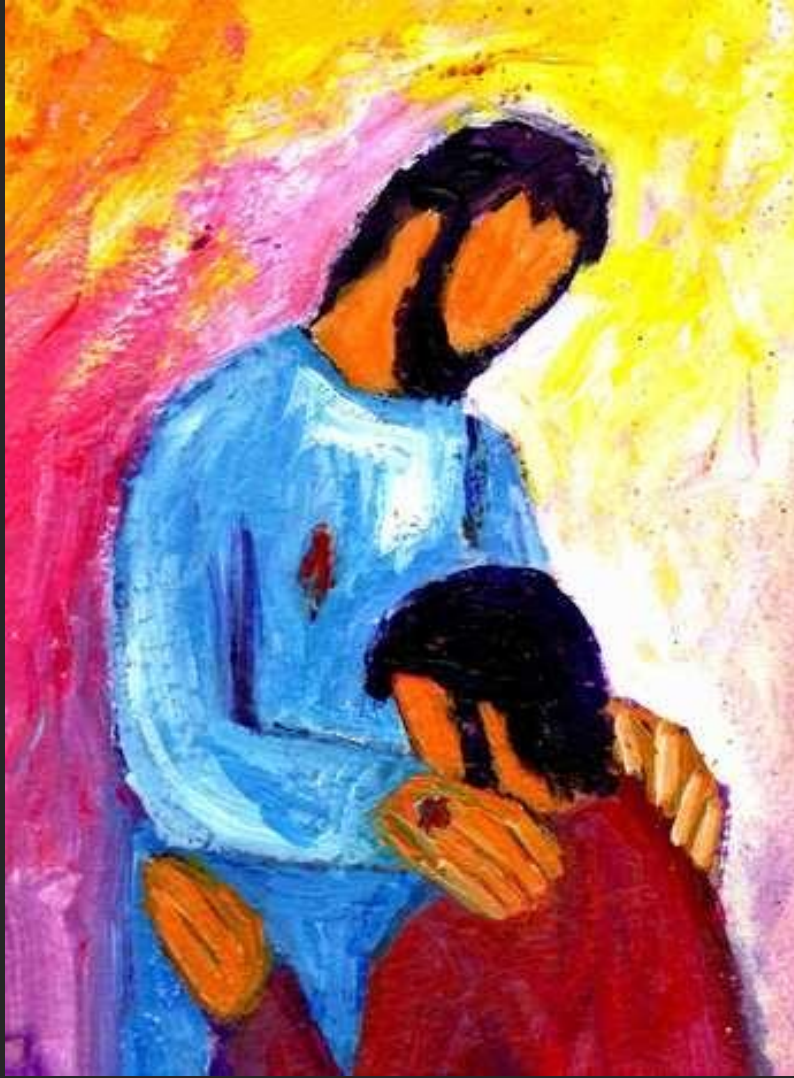
Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith.

Forgive us when we lose sight  
of the joy of Your love and instead  
fall into despair and gloom.

*[A few moments of silence for confession]*

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**





# Confession

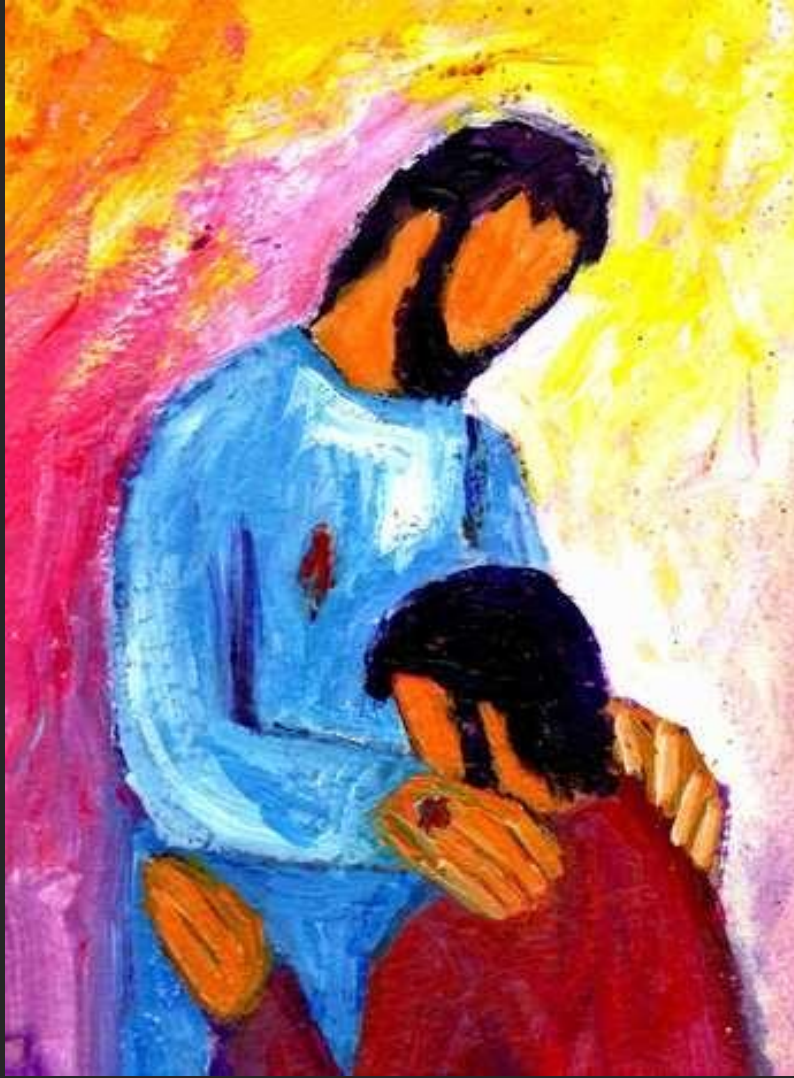
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**Lift up our spirits, Lord,**  
and help us to remember the promise  
of new life here and now, not just the  
hope of resurrection for the future.

**We give thanks for Your Son,**  
Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us  
new life, who continues to turn us around  
and upside down, who continues to  
break down the walls of death in our own life.

**Forgive us, restore us and renew us.**  
In the name of our risen Saviour,  
Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**





# Assurance of Pardon

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The tomb is empty.  
The stone is rolled away.  
There is no darkness now, only light.  
God continues to renew us and restore us.  
We are forgiven, loved and restored,  
receiving the gift and promise of new life and  
resurrection to rise with our scarred Saviour.  
Go and share the wondrous news of God's love  
in Jesus the Christ. *Amen.*



# Disruptive Witness

## *Rethinking words for witness*

— [thebigstory.com.au/](http://thebigstory.com.au/)



THE BIG STORY

IT'S ABOUT HOW YOUR STORY  
CONNECTS WITH GOD'S ...

EPIC STORY

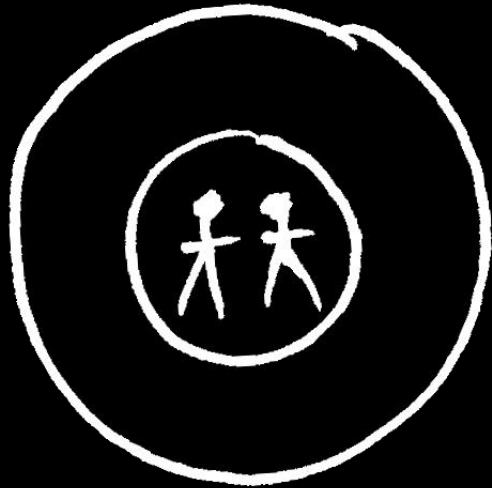
<https://traverse.org.au/resources/evangelism/sign/epic-story-tracts/>

**Theological Critique:**  
*truth, goodness, beauty?*

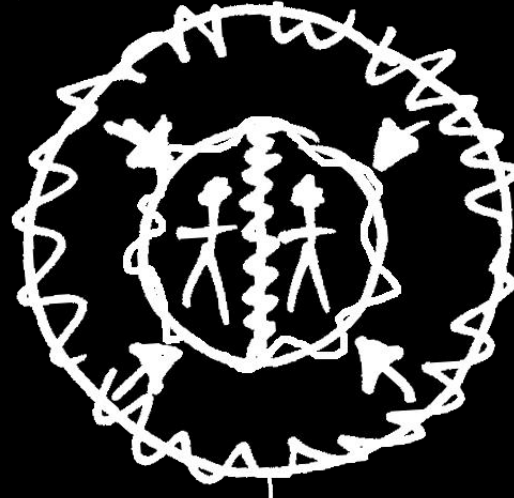
**Cultural Critique:**  
*Does it connect? With whom?*

*What would you change, and  
what can you use in your own way?*

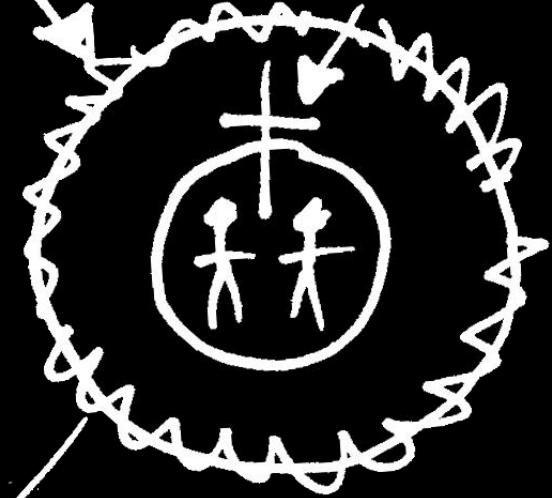
designed for good!



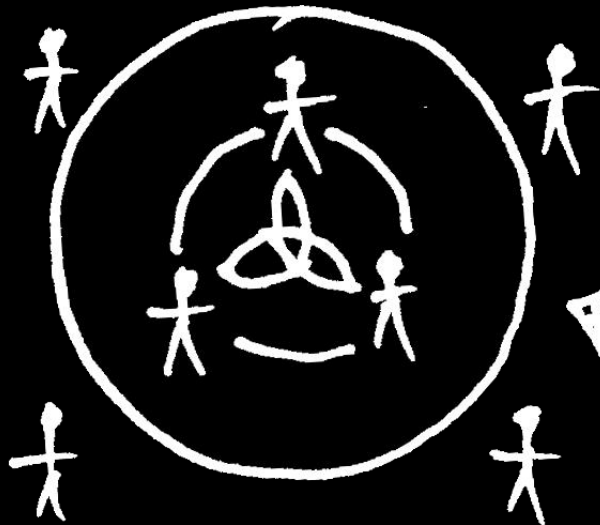
damaged by evil...



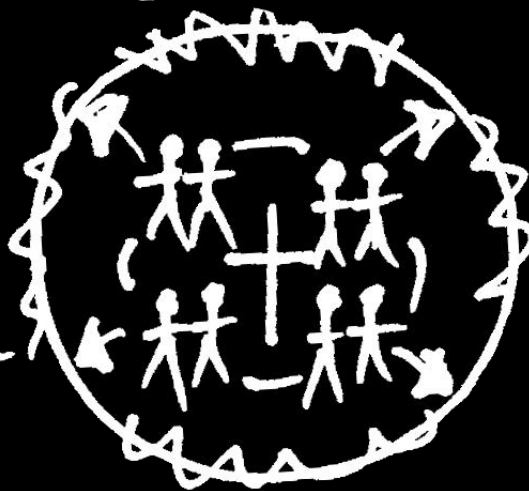
restored for better!



set everything right!



sent together to heal...







THE  
BIG  
STORY



THERE WAS A GLIMMER OF SOMETHING  
FROM MY PAST...

**SOMETHING GOOD...**

FRIENDS, FAMILY  
& FUN...



**BUT IT WAS FLEETING.**

**WOLLENCE  
WAR DEATH**

**I FELT**  
THREATENED BY THE WORLD I SAW  
AROUND ME... A WORLD FULL OF

**PAIN... SUFFERING  
& HATE...**



**ABUSE**

**I LONGED FOR SOMETHING REAL...  
SOMETHING TRUE...**





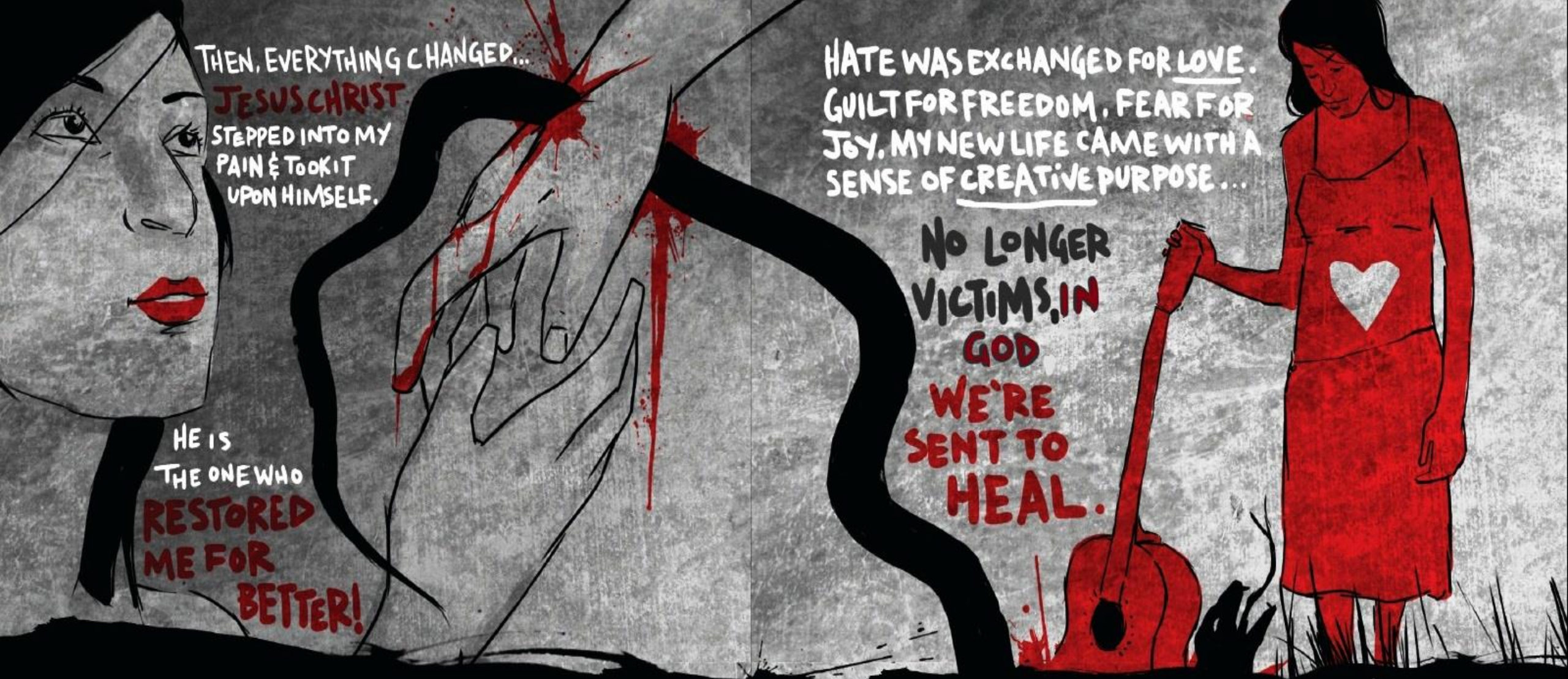
...IN MY HEART I KNEW THAT I HAD  
BEEN DESIGNED FOR GOOD...

BUT I WAS HURT  
& BROKEN... I WAS  
DAMAGED  
BY EVIL...

"CREATION DECLARES THE GLORY OF GOD!  
THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE WORK OF HIS HANDS!"  
(PSALM 19:1)

"FOR ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, THEY NEITHER  
GLORIFIED HIM AS GOD NOR GAVE THANKS TO HIM,  
BUT THEIR THINKING BECAME POINTLESS & THEIR FOOLISH  
HEARTS WERE DARKENED." (ROMANS 1:21)





THEN, EVERYTHING CHANGED...

**JESUS CHRIST**

STEPPED INTO MY  
PAIN & TOOK IT  
UPON HIMSELF.

HE IS  
THE ONE WHO  
**RESTORED  
ME FOR  
BETTER!**

HATE WAS EXCHANGED FOR LOVE.  
GUILT FOR FREEDOM, FEAR FOR  
JOY. MY NEW LIFE CAME WITH A  
SENSE OF CREATIVE PURPOSE...

NO LONGER  
VICTIMS, IN  
GOD  
**WE'RE  
SENT TO  
HEAL.**

"FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO  
CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD  
THROUGH HIM." (JOHN 3:17)

"A NEW COMMAND I GIVE TO YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER.  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER." (JOHN 13:34)



THERE'S REAL HOPE...

GOD WILL  
FINISH  
WHAT HE  
STARTED.

EVERYTHING  
WILL BE SET  
RIGHT.

NOW... & FOREVER.



THE  
BIG  
STORY

DESIGNED FOR GOOD

DAMAGED BY  
EVIL

RESTORED FOR  
BETTER

SENT TO  
HEAL...

EVERYTHING SET  
RIGHT...



"BUT IN KEEPING WITH HIS PROMISE WE ARE LOOKING  
FORWARD TO A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH,  
WHERE RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS." (1 PETER 3:13)

THIS IS YOUR STORY...  
IT'S OUR STORY...  
...IT'S GOD'S BIG STORY



***Theological Critique:***  
*truth, goodness, beauty?*

***Cultural Critique:***  
*Does it connect? With whom?*

*What would you change, and  
what can you use in your own way?*

# **Gospelling**

## *Rethinking words for witness*

— [thebigstory.com.au/](http://thebigstory.com.au/)

**THE BIG STORY**

**IT'S ABOUT HOW YOUR STORY  
CONNECTS WITH GOD'S ...**

**EPIC STORY**

[https://traverse.org.au/resources/  
evangelism/sign/epic-story-tracts/](https://traverse.org.au/resources/evangelism/sign/epic-story-tracts/)



# Pt. 1, 1–59

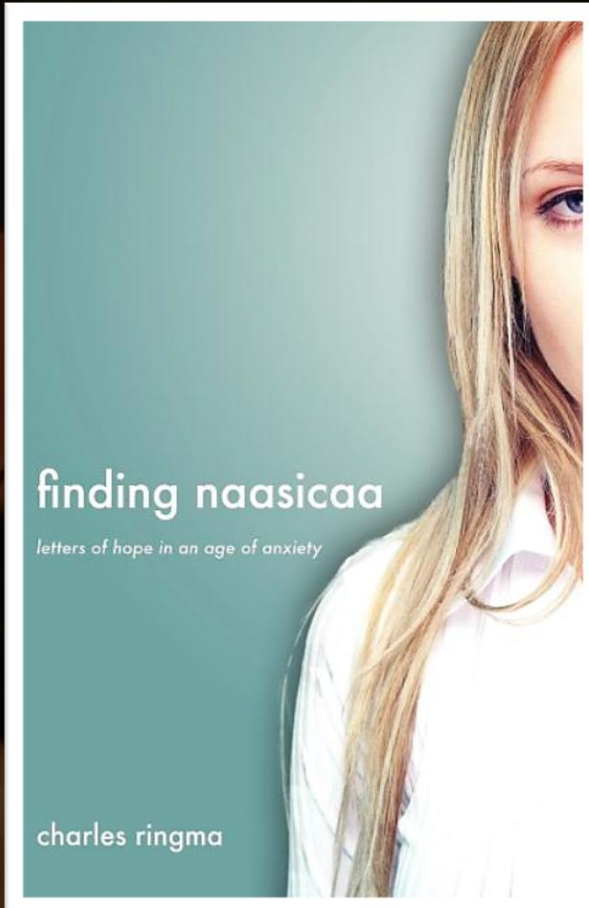
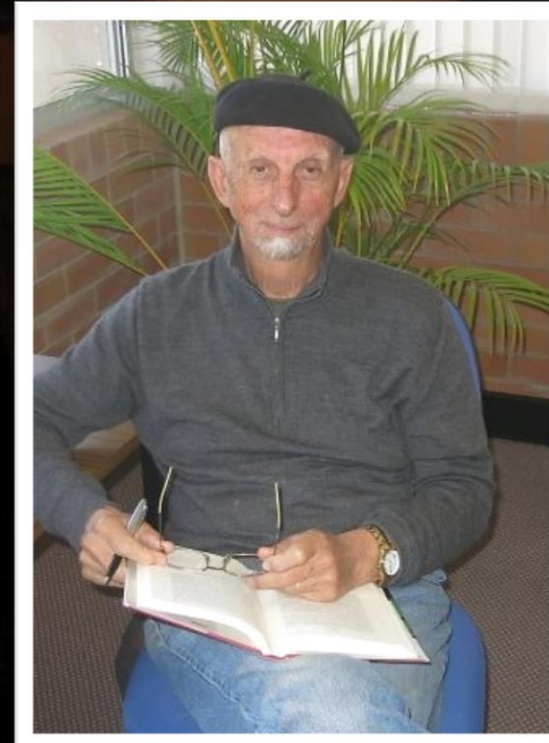
L1 An opening word  
for Naasicaa

L2 The world without  
and within

L3 Life's meaning  
and uncertainty

L4 The doing of good  
and the persistence of evil

L5 The story of God  
and the human predicament



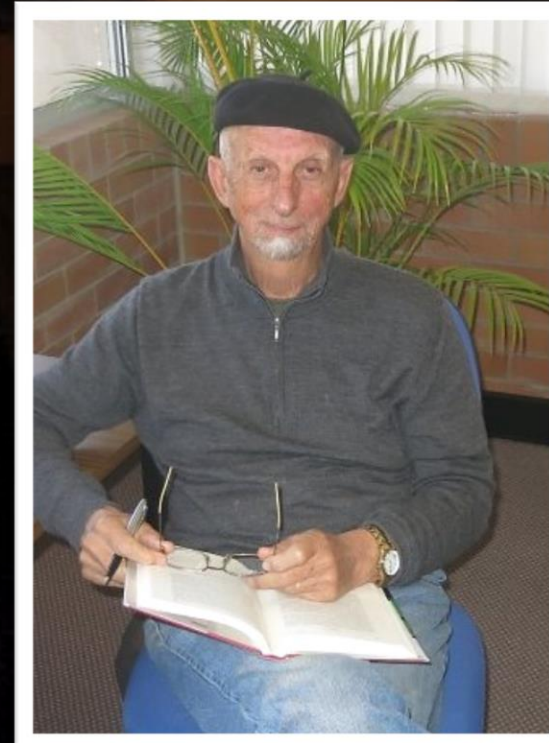
# Pt. 1, 1-59

**Question /**  
what didn't make sense?


**Challenge /**  
what did you think was wrong?

**Implication /**  
what wisdom does this offer  
for being a holistic witness to  
a post-Christian generation?

**Application /**  
how might this help us share  
the good news of God's reign?







*When religious words  
are exhausted,  
yet we're anxious  
for real hope,*

*how do we share the  
wonder of our world reborn  
when centred on Christ?*

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/OpenBook](https://padlet.com/david_benson/OpenBook)

# Practice |

## NOTICE

*To whom is the Spirit  
drawing your attention—  
your \*one\* person as  
intentional witness?*

Wait on the Lord,  
and watch closely this week  
to discern what  
they *want/desire*.

Pray  
Care  
Share







SONG | Jesus Loves Me  
PRAYER | For those who've  
walked  
away & need  
Jesus' Love





## *Benediction*

Where is this Jesus,  
the one you call Messiah?

***Christ is Risen!***

***Christ is here among us!***

I do not see him.

I don't believe you.

***[LOUDER] Christ is Risen!***

***Christ is here among us!***

Let me see his body,  
his hands and his feet.

***We are Christ's body;***

***We are Christ's feet.***





*Benediction*

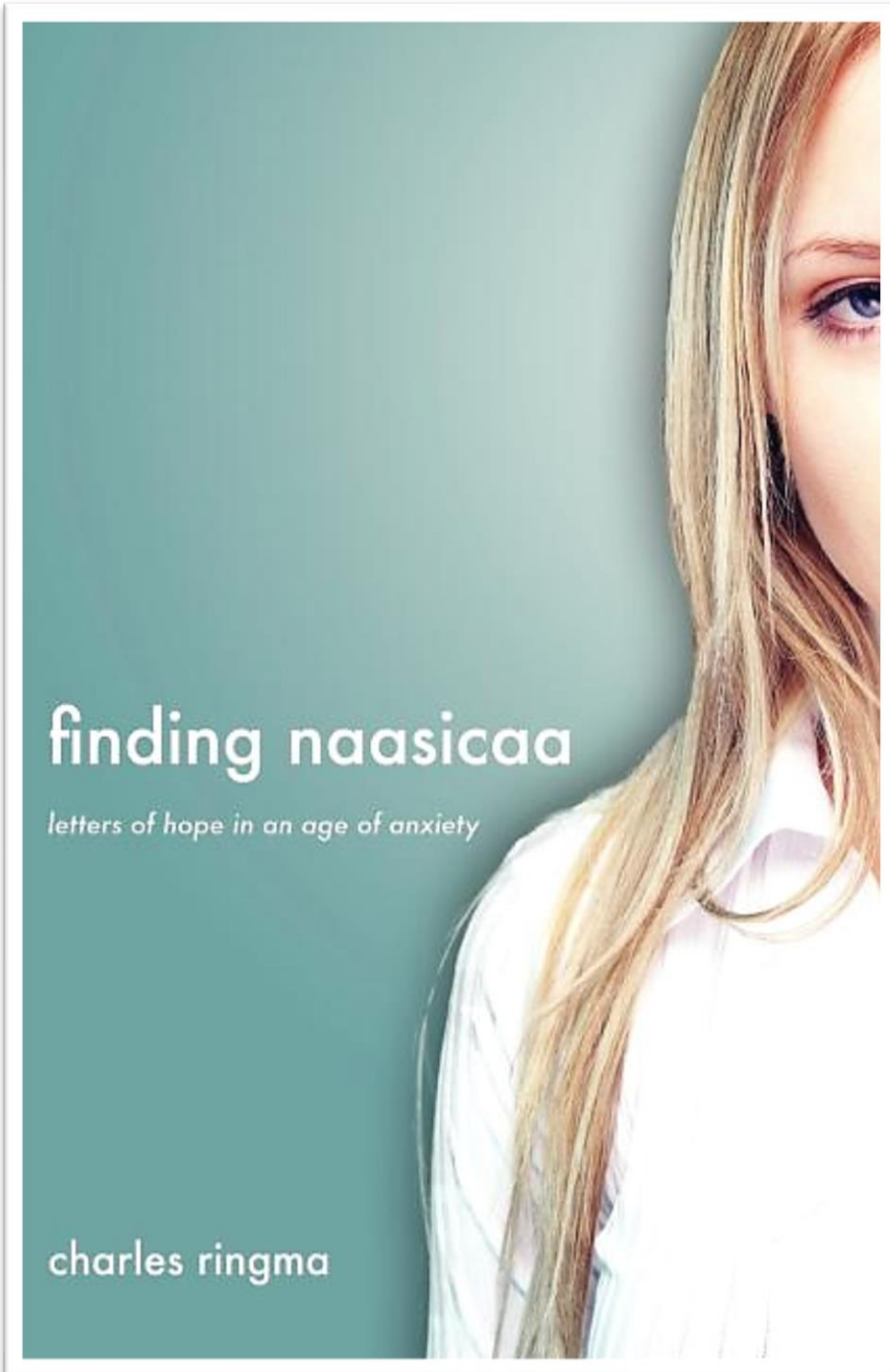
You see the suffering  
in the world?  
Where is Jesus now?

*We are going  
into the world to be  
the body of Christ.*

Let us go together, let us  
partner with others.

*For we are the  
body of Christ: let us  
share the Good News!*

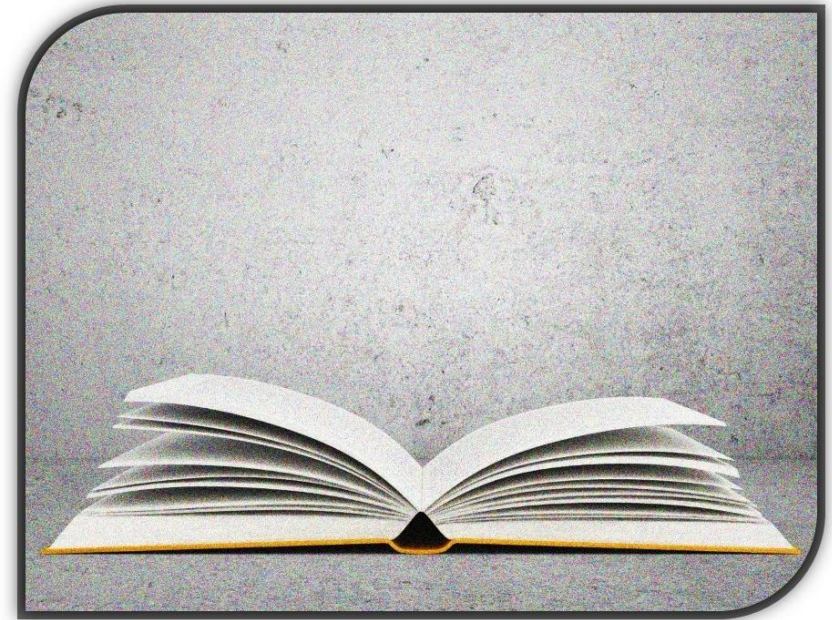
**Amen.**



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# *Finding Naasicaa Pt. 2*

## *Letters 6-8, pp. 60-110*



## Open Book | May 28

<https://zoom.us/join>

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Quarry Church  
Sundays, 8am





the pilgrim  
on the journey...  
knowing the God has the  
mountains....



... to deepen



...to share



... to imagine

