

AWE OF GOD



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. PERSONAL READING

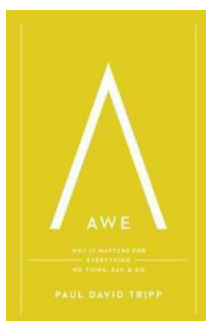
- Use this guide to help you read your Bible and pray every day.
- Use the prayer point suggestions below to guide your prayers as well as writing down people you are seeking to reach.

2. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- Take this to **GC** each week so you can follow along with the Bible Study.
- Use the **Whole Family Learning** ideas on page 27

PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.



This series is based on the book 'Awe: Why it matters for everything that we do and say' by Paul David Tripp. So, if you would like to explore this topic more, I strongly encourage you to give that a read.

AWE

WEEK	THEME	PASSAGE
1	What is Awe?	Psalms 145
2	The Awe Problem	Genesis 3:1-13
3	Awe and Stuff	Matthew 6:19-34
4	Awe and Church	Colossians 3:1-17
5	Awe and Work	Psalms 33
6	Awe and Parenting	Deuteronomy 6:1-9

INTRODUCTION

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE AWE SERIES

Awe of God is essentially gazing at the beauty of God. This is something that we often do when we look at amazing scenery or the wonder of new life. But, for a lot of us, it might not be something that we do daily. Does this even matter? Well, the short answer is yes!

Living in awe of God will affect our thought patterns, behaviours and generally how we go about our daily life. By living in awe of God we come closer to experiencing the great freedom and joy that is available to us as God's children.

In the first 2 weeks we will look at what Awe is and the theory of it, and then the rest of the studies will show how Awe affects the different areas of our lives.

WEEK 1: WHAT IS AWE?

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Genesis 3:1-7

1. What was at the essence of the serpent's temptation of Eve?
2. What does this show about the human heart?
3. How does your desire for awe of self overtake your awe of God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Exodus 32:1-10

1. Where did the Israelites look to for awe?
2. What was God's response to this?
3. Do you too often look to physical man made things for awe? What are these things?
4. Spend some time reflecting on the awe of God (Psalm 96 could help with this) and remind yourself of his greatness!

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Samuel 17

1. What does this passage teach us about where David's awe was?
2. How did that affect his life and actions?
3. Do you have this kind of bold confidence in God? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Daniel 4:28-37

1. From what you know about Nebuchadnezzar and what this passage tells us, where do you think he looked for awe?
2. What did God show him?
3. Do you often seek your own glory more than God? How does this show in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. How does this passage describe the human heart?
2. This passage shows that humanity's refusal to take awe in God leads to sin. What does this teach us about the root of sin?
3. Think through a particular sin that you are struggling with at the moment. What does that teach you about where your awe may be placed?
4. Which of God's characteristics or promises can you remind yourself of to help you in your struggle with that sin?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you could do them on these days.

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: WHAT IS AWE?

*"Where you look to for awe will shape the direction of your life."*¹ Discuss the different things that people live in awe of and how this shows in their lives.

Considering this, what affect does awe have on people's lives?

READ PSALM 145

List all the different ways that God is described in this passage?

How is the relationship between God and people described in this passage?

What is it that humanity is meant to live in awe of? Is this reasonable? Why?

What things generally make you stop and wonder at the amazement of them?

Spend some time by yourself thinking through the following questions:

¹ Paul David Tripp, *Awe: Why it Matters for Everything we think, say & do* (Illinois: Crossway, 2015), 19.

- Where do you experience your biggest moments of happiness and your darkest moments of sadness?
- What angers you or crushes you with disappointment?
- What motivates you to continue or makes you feel like quitting?
- When you say "If only I had..... " how do you fill in the blank?
- What do you tend to envy in the lives of others, or where does jealousy make you bitter?
- What makes you think your life is worth living or causes you to feel like your life is a waste?
- What are you willing to make sacrifices for; and what in your life just doesn't seem worth the effort?

Whatever the answer to those questions is, they will help you work out where you place your awe.

What is the danger of not living in awe of God (Mark 8:36)?

Choose one element of God's character that you will focus on this week and remind yourself of daily. You may find the bookmarks a helpful resource for this (your GC leader will have these).

GC PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying together, asking God for forgiveness for your misplaced awe and to help you find your awe fully in Him.

WEEK 2: THE AWE PROBLEM

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Ezekiel 16:1-34

1. How is sin and breaking God's law described in this passage?
2. When you think of the sin in your life, do you think of it as breaking relationship with God? Why or why not?
3. What does the sin in your life show about where you are placing your awe?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Exodus 20:1-17

1. What do the first four commandments have in common? How are they different to the other commandments?
2. Why do you think they are stated first? What does this show about awe of God and our obedience to him?
3. What has captured your heart over the past week? How has this affected your actions?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Deuteronomy 1:19-36

1. What are all the things that God did for his people as described in this passage?
2. How did his people respond?
3. What has been the content of your complaints lately?
4. What promises of God do you need to remind yourself of to replace those complaints with awe and thanksgiving?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Romans 8:1-11

1. List the things that God has done for us according to this passage.
2. What great promises are made to us in this passage?
3. How do these truths affect our 'awe problem'?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Galatians 5:1-26

1. Describe the two different sorts of lives does this passage describe?
2. Where is one's awe placed if:
 - a. They live by the flesh?
 - b. Live by the Spirit?
3. Think over the past week and your actions. Which fruit of the spirit was lacking? What does that teach you about your awe?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: THE AWE PROBLEM

Complete this sentence, "Spiritual growth is most dependent on...." Discuss.

READ GENESIS 3:1-13

What was so amazing about what Adam and Eve got to experience in the garden of Eden (verse 8)?

With this in mind, how does what they did become even more shocking?

What is at the centre of Satan's temptation to Eve?

Considering this, what does this teach about where humans will find awe (see Romans 1:25)?

*"In the garden that day, a great and destructive exchange took place-not first an exchange of obedience for disobedience but awe of God for awe of self. It was a look-what-you-could-be form of temptation that aggrandised Eve and made God seem small. Once awe of God is lost, the loss of a heart to obey isn't far off."*²

Considering this, what does the sin in our lives show about where we are placing our awe?

Think over your thoughts and emotional state over this past week, what does this reveal about what has captured your awe?

*"Only when awe of God progressively replaces awe of self will we joyfully, willingly, and consistently live as God designed us to live. And for reclaiming of the motivational system of each of our hearts, we have been given amazing, powerful, zealous, unending, and transformative grace."*³

What do we need to remind ourselves of daily to shift our awe away from ourselves and back to God (Romans 8:3)?

GC PRAYER POINTS

² Ibid.,85

³ Ibid.,129

WEEK 3: AWE AND STUFF

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Psalm 19

1. What does the physical world around us teach us about God?
2. What is worth more than anything according to this passage?
3. How does the physical world around you remind you of who God is?
4. How may you have started putting your awe in the created things rather than the creator?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Isaiah 55

1. What does this passage teach about money?
2. What do we learn about God in this passage?
3. Where do you find yourself looking for contentment?
4. What promises in this passages can help you find your satisfaction in God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Luke 12:13-21

1. What is Jesus teaching in this parable?
2. What warning does Jesus give?
3. How do you think you can be rich towards God (verse 21)?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Luke 12:22-34

1. Why does Jesus say we need not be anxious?
2. What do you usually find yourself getting anxious about?
3. What does this show you about where your awe is placed?
4. What promises from this passage can help you with this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Isaiah 40

1. List all the different things you learn about God and who he is in this passage.
2. How does this passage help us understand the world and life? How does it give us perspective?
3. How does this passage speak to you when you are feeling doubt, fear, discouragement, anxiety, worry and a lack of control?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: AWE AND STUFF

Johnny is feeling excited about his expensive new purchase. Is Johnny being worldly or godly? Discuss.

READ MATTHEW 6:19-34

What does Jesus teach his people to do and why?

What promises does Jesus give us in this passage?

How is the relationship between material possessions and worry connected?

What does Jesus ask his followers to seek? What do you think that actually looks like on a day-to-day basis? How does it affect one's thoughts, choices, motives, actions?

"If awe of God is not at the center of your worldview, you will look at nothing properly"⁴

⁴ Ibid., 139

Where is your heart (Matthew 6:21)? Is it seeking material things or eternal things? How does this show itself in your life?

What lies at the center of your worries? How can the promises that Jesus gives in this passage comfort you?

"Only when awe of God rules your heart will you be able to keep the pleasures of the material world in their proper place."⁵

We can't and shouldn't avoid stuff and possessions in our lives, in fact we need them! How, can we ensure that they do not become idols?

What can you do this week to help put material things back in the appropriate place in your life (see 1 Timothy 6:17-18)?

GC PRAYER POINTS

⁵ Ibid., 113

WEEK 4: AWE AND CHURCH

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. How is the early church described here?
2. What role did people play within the church?
3. Is this a familiar picture to what you see today in the church? How or how not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Titus 2:1-10

1. What roles do different people have as described by this passage?
2. Is anyone not involved in this type of community? If so, who?
3. Who are you, an older man? Older woman? Young man? Young woman?
How can you teach those who are younger than you at Summerleas?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

1. What are Christians to be doing for each other?
2. What reason does Paul give for this?
3. How can you be part of stirring 'up one another to love and good works' at Summerleas church?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1. According to this passage who does your life belong to?
2. What impact should and does this have on how you live your life?
3. How can you show love to the people at Summerleas church?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Revelation 7:9-12

1. What is being described in this passage?
2. What is at the centre of the people's worship?
3. How does this glimpse into the future impact your view of church today?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: AWE AND CHURCH

Why do you think Church has often become just something you attend and consume rather than a central mission to people's lives?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

How does Paul (the writer of Colossians) describe Christian community (the church) in this passage?

How is this kind of community possible (see verse 1-4)?

Is this type of community something that you can just sit back and consume? Why or why not?

What role does each individual have in the church?

How is Church, as described by this passage, different to other clubs or groups?

How might you be tempted to 'consume church' rather than be actively engaged in?

"If your heart is being progressively captured by the awe of God, his work, his grace, and his kingdom ("things that are above"), you will see your church not just as a place you attend but as a major commitment of your life, and you will live with a ministry lifestyle in the place where God has put you."⁶

Is your mind set on 'things that are above'? Where might you need to change or increase this in your life?

What opportunities do you have at Summerleas to live out the kind of community that is described in Colossians 3?

GC PRAYER POINTS

⁶ Ibid., 155

WEEK 5: AWE AND WORK

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Genesis 2:15

1. What do we learn about work in this verse?
2. Considering what you know about the garden of Eden, how does this impact your view of work and its purpose?
3. Do you see work as a blessing from God? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Exodus 20:8-11?

1. What are God's people commanded to do in this passage?
2. What is the purpose of this?
3. When we rest, what does that show about our view of God?
4. What is your view of rest? Do you 'take a Sabbath'? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 33

1. What reasons are given for praising God in this Psalm?
2. How are God's people to respond to him?
3. Do you take refuge in God? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1

1. How are we to treat those over us? Our bosses?
2. What reason is given for this?
3. What does this show about the purpose of work?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

1. How are Christians commanded to act in this passage?
2. What reasons are given for this?
3. What reason is given for work in this passage?
4. Is this how you view what you have/earn? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 5 GC STUDY: AWE AND WORK

Why do you think there are so many people (Christians and non-Christians) who appear to be 'workaholics'?

Would you consider yourself a 'workaholic'? Why or why not?

READ PSALM 33

What are people commanded to do in this passage (see especially verses 18-19)? Why?

List what this passage teaches us about:

- the things that God has done:
- the characteristics of God:

What promises are given to God's people in this passage?

"Awe of Him (God) liberates me from a life-distorting bondage to awe of anything else."⁷

Read the following statements:

- "I am what I accomplish"
- "I am in control, therefore I am"
- "I am the size of the pile of stuff I have accumulated"

What truths have we learnt about God that debunk all of these statements?

What perspective does this passage offer us in terms of our work and how we spend our time?

Are you prone to 'workaholism'? From what we have learnt about God and the place of work, what can you do to recentre your awe of God?

GC PRAYER POINTS

⁷ Ibid., 173.

WEEK 6: AWE AND PARENTING

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Proverbs 3:1-12

1. What does the writer of Proverbs teach his son?
2. What will be the result if he listens to him?
3. Are you teaching your children to fear God? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Psalm 19

1. What can we see in creation?
2. How is God's word described in this passage?
3. How can you teach these things to your children within the busyness of everyday life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Mark 8:34-38

1. How is Jesus teaching in this passage counter-cultural?
2. How might you be falling into the trap of teaching your children to 'gain the whole world'?
3. Considering Jesus teaching in this passage, what teaching will actually be lifegiving to our children?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Romans 3:9-26

1. What is the condition of all people, including children?
2. What do they need parents to teach them and show them?
3. How are you going at preaching the gospel to your children?
4. In what ways can you make this a normal and natural part of your family life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Revelation 21:1-8

1. What is being described in this passage?
2. Considering this, what are we actually preparing our children for?
3. What difference does this perspective make to the way that you parent?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If you missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 6 GC STUDY: AWE AND PARENTING

When you think of what it means to be a successful parent what do you think of?
What does a 'successful family' look like?

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

What was the purpose of the commandments?

Which commandment is the greatest (see Matthew 22:24-40)?

What were the Israelites to do with these commandments?

What do you think it means to have something 'on your heart' (verse 6)?

Considering what we have read and talked about, what role has God given parents?

"...our parenting must be guided by a great big awe agenda. We need to do everything we can to put the glory of God and his grace before our children so that the awe of God would rule over their hearts and minds."⁸

When you think about your parenting, what would you say is your top priority? Why?

How can we teach our children to live with their awe in God amongst the busyness of life?

What are you actually preparing your children for (see Revelation 21:1-10)? How does this help give us perspective amongst the needs and pressures of day-to-day life?

What changes do you need to make to your parenting to teach your children to have their awe in God?

GC PRAYER POINTS

⁸ Ibid., 163

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS FOR AWE SERIES

1. Ask everyone in your group one thing that they love about God and why that is. Then:
 - a. Draw a picture of that thing.
 - b. Pray and thank God for it.
2. Ask the kids what they enjoy looking at. You could have some pictures of amazing things like a mountain, waterfall, etc to give them some ideas.

Read Psalm 145 (or just a section of it). If you have kids that can read, you could get them to each read a couple of verses each.

- Ask the kids how God is better than the things they were talking about before.
 - Spend some time praying and praising God for who he is.
3. Go for a bushwalk with your GC or somewhere together where you can explore amazing things that God has made. Collect these things up and talk about what they are like and about how God made them all!

Pray together and thank God for his amazing creation.

4. Choose one of the video's from the Bible Project 'Character of God' series: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/character-of-god-series>

Discuss together what you:

- Learnt about God
- Like about God
- Not sure about

Spend some time praying together about these things.

5. Listen (and maybe even sing along!) to the song 'Indescribable' by Chris Tomlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lIVfkY5q54>

Ask the kids what they learnt about God from that song.

Pray together, praising God!

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS

FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS)

FOCUS is a Christian international student society that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.



How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them.

What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.

When: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm)

Where: Sandy Bay Baptist Church, 239 Sandy Bay Road

- Pray:
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Pray for Luke and the leadership team that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour

THE DURDIN FAMILY



Marc and Joey Durdin are another one of our mission partners at Summerleas Church. Marc is the developer of Keyman software which helps translate writing into native languages. Joey is a midwife who provides support and education to women in many ways. They are currently seeking to go to Papua New Guinea in 2022.

- Pray:
 - That God would guide them as they make plans to move to Papua New Guinea.
 - Pray for Marc that he will be able to complete his theological degree whilst continuing with the Keyman work.
 - Pray for Joey as she continues to educate and support women remotely.
 - Pray for their family as they transition to a new stage with Bethany getting married in 2021.
 - Pray that God will use them to be a light to all those they come into contact with. That they will be bold to proclaim Christ and show his love to the people in their lives.