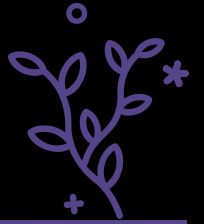


GARDENS & STORIES

WEEK #4



Hey team Student Soul

Many of you are at University, or studying at Polytech. It is a great thing to be able to study. To be a student means that in this season of your life your prime vocation is to study. And study is related to growth, a willingness to learn, a commitment to strengthen yourself through building knowledge and (hopefully) acquiring wisdom. (Although there's no guarantee of that, despite Otago University's motto).

One question that takes a centre place during the study years and during the years of young adulthood, is this:

What is my place in the universe?

It's a question like that (and the journey that answering it takes you on) which really defines the calibre of your growth during this time and beyond.

Here you are in little ol' Dunedin, in little ol' New Zealand. What are you doing here? What brought you here? What do you hope to do? What dreams are you trying to fulfil? What pressures, motivations or ideas led you to choose your course/path? Who are you hoping to become, and what cost are you willing to pay to see that come to pass?

It's important that you engage properly in your study. Dive in to those essays. Make the most of the learning journey. Go a little deeper & beyond the basic requirements.

But don't forget there's a bigger picture behind all of this. Where do you fit? What role do you have to play in this crazy world? What task is it that you and you alone are most fit to do?

These are the questions that should undergird your time at uni/tech. These are the questions you carry with you as you keep growing, maturing, learning. And these are questions that relate to our relationship with God and our walk as disciples of Jesus.

For Student Soul & our church-life rhythms of small groups, worship, community - well, these are all about building a mission-shaped community, becoming mission-shaped people. *We* are all here for a purpose. And *you* have a contribution to make that no one else can. And *all together*, we are following Jesus & putting the big questions at the centre.

Are you up for this? 'Cos this is the moment, this is the time!

Let's do this wild journey together: we are exploring our place in the universe(ity).

Tom Mephram

READING

ACTS 13:4-12

I came down crook last week & never touched this text, so it's a repeat from last week.

It's important to us that we are practising creativity at Student Soul. Creativity can take shape in every arena of life in endless ways, and everyone has potential to live powerful and creatively. And we believe we are called to be a creative church.

On the way up to Easter, we're heading into phase 2 of our Thursday night worship, now that we've established a few new routines for the year. And we're going to dive a bit deep into this commitment to creativity.

As part of making space for this on Thursday nights, weekly sermons are online. Sermons/bible messages are important because we want our life to be centred on Scripture, the Bible, which is a way of putting Jesus and Holy Spirit life at the centre of all we do.

Because we are not just a social club but a church, we are always trying to become a true spiritual community. A mission community that is beautiful to be a part of and a blessing to the community around us. This means for each one of us that we have a commitment to pursue spiritual life, to engage in spiritual conversations, to listen to and learn from God through the Bible, and to practise authentic relationships with one another.

So for this week's reading, please check it out, and the sermon will upload later this week. We'll look at it from a couple of different angles on Thursday night. And I'd encourage you to chat about the questions and ideas and message with friends, in small groups, and even use it as prayer material.

You can listen or watch the 2 previous messages at studentsoul.org.nz

YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE;
YOU WILL PROTECT ME FROM TROUBLE
AND SURROUND ME WITH SONGS OF DELIVERANCE.

PSALM 32:7 (NIV)

STUDENT
Soul