

Re: Set

May/Pentecost 2021 (2 - 29 May)



In the beginning was *the Word*.

Then there was *light* and *dark*. That's two more words.

And then the words just kept coming and coming...

The story of Christianity, indeed of the world, is an ongoing conversation that began with the 'Word' — God addressing creation in the person of Jesus — with the meaning at the heart of everything.

When humanity — made in God's image — came crying, shouting and whooping into being we had mouths full of our own words. We responded to the Word of life with our own words of delight, shame, sorrow, curiosity, anger, wonder and love as we worked out what it means to be alive. And since then the words have only continued to flow as we have learnt more about what it is to be.

Every so often in this ongoing conversation it comes time to reset, refocus, and rediscover the thread. We take stock and respond again to that initial Word at the heart of the universe.

For God always invites our reply.

The last several months have been a profound interruption to the status quo affecting everything from seismic global trends to the minutiae of our ordinary day to day lives. Society is in a state of

flux and we face an uncertain world on the brink of great cultural change and transformation. There is apprehension but also expectancy in the air.

And it is in this mood we that we turn our attention to Pentecost — when the church as we know it was born — in the midst of a state of flux, facing an uncertain world on the brink of great cultural change and transformation...

What can we learn from how they reset then that can help us reset now?

God is speaking.

And it's time for us to reply.

Ready, set...

Each week of the four week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and thought triggers. Look up our [Discussion Questions PDF](#) that adapts the material for personal Bible study or for [Connect groups](#).

Re: Set to Rediscover (2 May)

Reset us Creator God that we might rediscover our callings, our gifts, our humble beautiful purpose to love one another.

As we pray and hope for restoration, rebuilding and renewal throughout society what are we hoping to rediscover?

1. Acts 8: 26-40

1. **Re: Discover.** You've got to love the honesty of that Ethiopian eunuch. When asked if he understands what he's reading there's no bluster or bravado or excuses. He presses the reset button and says "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

2. Psalm 22

2. **Re: Visit.** A raw plea for God's presence.

4. John 15: 1-8

3. **Re: Ply.** Rediscovering that the love that we *ply*, that we steadily work at, is a response to the love God has shown us.

5. Psalm 81

4. **Re: Grow.** Revitalising the branches to bear fruit.

6. Acts 9: 1-9

5. **Re: Tune.** With portable handheld devices (tambourines, lyres and harps) the psalmist reminds us to retune into God.

7. Acts 9: 10-20

6. **Re: View.** Saul's vision, already blinkered by 'threats and murder', is about to be reset dramatically. Why does Saul experience such a hard, sudden reset?

7. **Re: Store.** What did God have in store for Paul — Ananias! A freaked out but faithful follower. On the road was the pyrotechnics, in the house was some simple, quiet words and a restorative meal. His vision was restored but also some of his humanity. Saul was on a journey of rediscovery to becoming Paul, but Ananias was on a journey of rediscovery too; one where the lines of what he thought possible were being redrawn.

Re: Set to Reimagine (9 May)

Reset us Saviour God so that we can reimagine what is possible, that we might doodle, and sketch and take tentative steps in response to your transforming love.

As we pray and hope for restoration, rebuilding and renewal throughout society what are we wanting to reimagine?

1. Acts 10: 44-48

1. **Re: Drawing.** The believers had to redraw their boundaries of who was in and out.

2. Psalm 98

2. **Re: Sounding.** Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

3. Psalm 107: 1-22

3. **Re: Invigorating.** Renewed in love.

4. John 15: 9-17

4. **Re: Claiming.** Laying claim to the divine love where we can safely abide.
5. **Re: Designing.** Common tasks can unite a community — pooling resources and skills in a great shared endeavour using God given gifts. How can we come together in these challenging times to engrave, design, embroider, and weave a better world?

5. Exodus 35: 25-35

6. **Re: Engaging.** Re-engaging with the tenderness of God's love. Through our imagination we can picture God taking us by the hand and teaching us to walk.

6. Hosea 11: 1-11

7. **Re: Kindling.** It's time to fetch some kindling and renew our holy, vivid and vibrant lives, guarding the good as we seek to rebuild a more just and loving world.

7. 2 Timothy 1: 6-13

Re: Set to Reconfigure (16 May)

Gathering-in God, having rediscovered what we need and reimagined how to get there guide us as we seek to flourish together.

As we pray and hope for restoration, rebuilding and renewal throughout society what needs to be reconfigured?

1. Acts 1: 1-11

1. **Re: Calibrate.** Just like the apostles looking up into the sky, we are sometimes guilty of looking at where Jesus was rather than where he *is* now.

2. Psalm 47

2. **Re: Commit.** Recommitting and reshaping ourselves through praise.

3. Isaiah 55: 1-7

3. **Re: Penitent.** Resetting and turning back towards God in repentance.

4. Ephesians 1: 15-23

4. **Re: Member.** The importance of remembering one another, beloved members of the same body, in prayer.

5. Matthew 28: 16-20

5. **Re: Commission.** Often reconfiguring is about bringing in new approaches but as we refocus on The Great Commission are there things from our long Christian tradition which we can *recommission*, bring back into the playbook?

6. Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

6. **Re: Convene.** A community reforms.

7. John 17: 6-19

7. **Re: Iterate.** Protected, joyful, sanctified, sent.

Re: Set to Restart (23 May, Pentecost)

Renewer God, having rediscovered, reimagined and reconfigured we bring our words, our hopes, our loves and longings, ready to restart...

As we pray and hope for restoration, rebuilding and renewal throughout society what needs to be re-started?

1. Ezekiel 37: 1-14

1. **Re: Animate.** A vivid picture of new life bursting forth.

2. Acts 2: 1-21

2. **Re: Fuel.** Inspired, galvanised, enthused.

3. Numbers 11: 24-30

3. **Re: Commence.** Eldad and Medad didn't go looking for the Spirit, but the Spirit found them anyway...

4. Romans 8: 22-25

4. **Re: Create.** Creation as an ongoing experience...

5. John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

5. **Re: Enthuse.** We have an advocate to champion us!

6. **Re: Gift.** As we restart how can we share our gifts to bless others?

6. 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

7. **Re: Start.** When we are thirsty we can come to the Father, to the Son, to the Spirit and start again...

7. John 7: 37-39