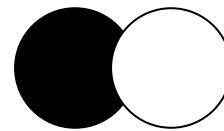


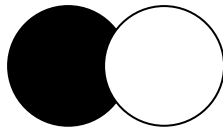
exist.org.uk

discover
prog 3:
coming soon...



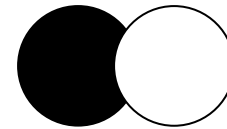
prog 3: coming soon ...

wk 1: promise. discover God's promises.
wk 2: dark. discover the light of the world.
wk 3: wait. discover patience.
wk 4: hope. discover hope for the world.
wk 5: joy. discover joy for the world.
wk 6: peace. discover peace for the world.
wk 7: soon. jesus of nazareth - coming soon.



programmes

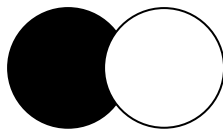
helping you discover jesus of nazareth



our mission

exist exists to:

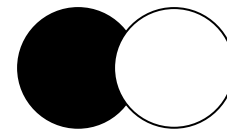
inspire devotion to jesus of nazareth
by disseminating his words
in innovative formats



café exist

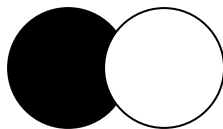
meet up with people in your area and talk over
the issues raised in prog 3

who's running café exist near you?
contact us to find out: info@exist.org.uk



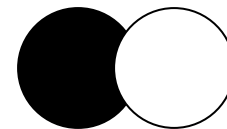
resources

download and share flash and powerpoint
presentations relating to this programme @
exist.org.uk/resources



existature

exist literature (existature) comes in display
stand style, themed, e-boxes of 200 items
advent e-box
easter e-box
hope e-box
image e-box
i am e-box



info

further information: info@exist.org.uk

exist is an initiative of newton mearns baptist church,
glasgow
uk
www.newtonmearnsbaptist.org.uk

wk 1: promise.

notes:

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day 1:
trust.

'look me in the eye
then tell me you'll be true to your word.'

we've all heard promises before
we've all had them broken
little by little trust goes
our ability to take words at face-value fades

God's promises come with a
'trust me'
and a track-record of being accomplished

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 2:
sure.

when some people make promises they swear
'as God is my judge'
like appealing to some greater authority
to underwrite the promise

so who does God swear by to show his promises are
good?
seems he swears by himself 'cause there's no higher
authority
nothing more certain
no-one more sure.

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 3:
higher.

i guess when you operate outside of time
above and beyond everything else
like God does
that the ability to know what's coming soon
is yours

i suppose being higher than everything else
means the promises you make carry a real
certainty
that nothing'll stop you bringing them to be

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 4:
expect.

when i've got no expectations
i'm not disappointed
if nothing happens

but when something good does happen
i'm delighted

when expectations are raised
the need to have them met's there too
not just to meet, but to exceed expectations

God raises expectations when he promises a
deliverer.
will *he* deliver?

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 5:
sent.

so's we'd not mistake it when it happened
just so's we'd not get mixed up
or confused

God set up a teaser campaign
for hundreds of years he ran trailers via:
teachers
prophets
visions
glimpses of what he was going to do
hints of who was soon to come

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 6:
wonder.

wide-eyed in wonder -
like a child on christmas morning.
that's me when i hear God's promises.

he promises:
'a child'll be born
who'll be prince of peace
wonder-counsellor
mighty God. everlasting father'

mighty God? everlasting father?
sounds like God's describing himself.
God = human child?
how can that be?

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

day 7:
love.

faithfulness is the evidence
that love's promise is true
not just saying 'i love you' but acting on it.

when jesus of nazareth was born in a dingy outhouse,
who'd have thought this was God's promise,
faithfully fulfilled?

who'd have thought this was God's love-gift
the evidence of God's faithfulness
to deliver

jesus of nazareth:
i am from above

wk 2: dark.

notes:

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day 1:
dark

sometimes the world's a dark place.
hatred; greed; jealousy

sometimes it feels like life's dark too
empty; hopeless; desperate

jesus of nazareth brings people who're living in darkness
into the light
a light so radiant, so bright
that you'll want to just bathe in it forever.
step into the light

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world

day 2:
extinguish

when everything around me's dark
and it threatens to overwhelm me

then i'm thinking about jesus of nazareth;
the light that shines in the darkness.

the darkness may try to overcome him
but if the darkness of death can't extinguish him
then nothing else'll ever succeed
against him
or me

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world

day 3:
blind

to see:
light; stars; a smile; sparkling eyes.
sight's one of life's delights.

but living without it?
with blindness
in darkness
cut off

jesus of nazareth talks about blindness
but not just physical blindness
he talks about something way beyond that
he speaks of people who can't see spiritual things

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world

day 4:
see

see!
it's an invitation.
an instruction.
a command.

so i'm trying to see
but it's not that simple

what i need's someone to say to me:
'open your eyes and see!'
and for that to happen

so i'm asking jesus of nazareth
i believe he gives sight to blind eyes

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world.

day 5:
light

when a light shines
darkness disappears

a little light dispels a little darkness
a bright light. . . ?
well, a bright light scatters darkness completely

jesus of nazareth shines his searchlight
into every dark corner of this world
into our actions
and motives

right into your life
and mine

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world.

day 6:
illuminate

out walking at night
no streetlights
no moon.
it's no easy task
falling over
stumbling
lost

God said he'd send someone to illuminate our path
someone to shine a light
a great light
on us.

for anyone walking in the deepest darkness
jesus of nazareth is that bright shining light

jesus of nazareth
i am the light of the world.

day 7:
shine

if i'm surrounded by darkness
what then?
do i let it overwhelm me?
or do i resist?

how can i stand against evil?
when i'm just one person?

jesus of nazareth says my life's to shine so bright
it'll chase the darkness away
seems when we follow him, that happens.

jesus of nazareth
you are the light of the world

wk 3: wait.

notes:

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day 1: with all of time to choose from there came a time
time - a time that was just right

it was then that God acted
no sooner
no later

then, once all of the conditions were right,
he picked his perfect moment
then *he* came among us -
jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 2:
slow

me?
i like things to happen fast
child of the 'now' generation

seems God's not like that -
he works to his own timescales

a nation waits,
everything seems so slow
hundreds of years of preparation
but then God acts - wow!
there's nothing slow about God once his 'right time'
comes

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 3:
patience

i'm urging God to act quickly
looking for quick answers to my problems
quick solutions to my needs.

but patience teaches me more about God
and myself
than instant answers ever can.

waiting for God to act means waiting 'til *he's* ready
and every day i wait,
i'm learning patience

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 4:
confident

i wouldn't have waited
if i hadn't been confident
i wouldn't have hung in there

but deep inside i knew God would do what he
promised.
i asked him to let me know if he was really there.
day 1 - nothing
day 2 - same
but in the fullness of time...

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 5:
worth

it's said 'good things come to those who wait'.
well,
that's certainly true when it comes to God's plans
a nation waited
and waited
and waited
then, when it seemed nothing would ever happen
jesus of nazareth.

now, he's well worth the wait
jesus of nazareth - what're you waiting for?

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 6:
drift

for me, there's danger in waiting too long
my mind starts to drift
my heart wavers

when distractions cross my horizon, my focus shifts
but God doesn't leave me too long
beyond what's bearable

no,
he breaks in
stops the drift
disrupts everything
upsets my complacency
challenges my comfort zones

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

day 7:
perfect

a boy is born
and he's perfect.
the long wait's over
his mother looks on him in wonder
she's finding it hard to believe he's really here
now she can see him and touch him and hold him.

jesus of nazareth - soon all the world'll gaze on you
and worship

jesus of nazareth
wait for the gift my father promised

wk 4: hope.

notes:

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day 1:
hope

when i'm in the middle of darkness
in the midst of hard times
even in darkest despair
i'm hoping

i'm looking for light
to dispel darkness
where'll it come from?

when the night's never-ending
and the minutes're like hours
i'm longing for the morning
for the dawning
for the light

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 2:
look

my eyes are cast down
looking at the ground
no hope

then i hear a voice
a voice that speaks right to me
a voice that clearly calls my name

it's the voice of jesus of nazareth
look to me, he says,
look to me all of the earth
look

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 3:
faith

faith.
it sounds like the kind of thing religious people
have
i don't know that i'm that kind of a person

but what if faith's another word for hope?
well, hope's something i want
hope's something i desire
especially if my hope's in something reliable
in someone like jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 4:
vision

it's not always easy to see clearly
people just have a vision of where they're going
of what life's about

maybe it's what their eye's fixed on that makes the
difference

me?
my vision's fixed on jesus of nazareth
that way i've a hope of getting where i'm going

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 5:
spring

it's said
'hope springs eternal'
like it's something that'll always rise up
regardless of everything else:
circumstances
life-events

but that's not always the way it is.
sometimes there's more despair than hope
sometimes it feels like there's nothing to give us hope
then, into those moments, comes jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 6:
wish

i'm wishing on a star
a guiding star.

well, actually it's more than just wishing
'cause wishing's too vague
based on nothing real
just on dreams
on daydreams

but hopes?
hopes that're based on promises - they're strong

and that star?
who's it guiding me too if not jesus of nazareth?

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

day 7:
horizon

i'm looking out to sea
right out where the water meets the sky.

what's beyond?
i can't see
but i know there's something there
something real

so, it's like that with God
and with death
i can't see over that horizon
but jesus of nazareth?
he's been there
and back

jesus of nazareth:
i will come to you

wk 5: joy.

notes:

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day 1:
hear

it's like i was deaf
 people telling me about a reason to be joyful
 about jesus of nazareth
 but i didn't seem to hear

then one day God must've opened my ears
 then i heard good news
 now when i listen - i take it in
 it makes my heart rejoice

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 2:
fill

there was a time when my heart was empty
 you know that way when there's a deep yearning
 inside
 a longing to be filled with something everlasting
 to have life filled up with meaning

so, i asked God to fill me up
and he did

he'll fill you up too.

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 3:
overflow

filled up
 up to the top
 up to the brim and overflowing
 it runs over and down onto the ground
 it seems like there's no end to all this joy
 the joy that fills up jesus of nazareth's followers

he says he's come to give life in all it's fullness

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 4:
share

at first i was speechless.
 i was lost in wonder
 when i realised what God had done
 by coming into this world as a person

but soon that wonder gave way to joy
 and i couldn't keep it in.

like everything that's good
you've just got to share it around

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 5:
dance

how should i show the joy within?
 then, while i'm still thinking about it
 my body starts to respond
 a smile crosses my face
 i get up on my feet
 i throw my arms in the air

before i know it:
i'm dancing
on the inside
and on the outside

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 6:
celebrate

birthday
 wedding day
 golden anniversary
 there's lots of things to celebrate

but there's nothing quite like knowing God
 and nothing quite like knowing God entered our world
 to give us a reason for celebrating

so even if no-one else does it
i'm celebrating today
and tomorrow
and forever
and ever

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

day 7:
joy

jesus of nazareth brings joy to the world
 not just the joy of a new born baby
 but the joy of God come among us

it was understanding this that changed me
 and once my mind grasped what he'd done
 my emotions soon followed

and along with joy came peace

jesus of nazareth:
my followers have my joy in their hearts.

wk 6: peace.

notes:

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day 1:
war

peace.
we talk about it
we long for it
we work for it
and war for it
why, when we get it, can't we keep it?

but peace isn't just the absence of war
it's to do with things that're within
i found it when i stopped warring with God

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 2:
struggle

sometimes
inside i'm struggling with God.

even after all these years of knowing him
there's times when i pull one way and he pulls another.

that's when things're difficult
that's when i need help

that's when i need jesus of nazareth's mind
a mind thinking -
not my will
but yours

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 3:
still

i hear a voice
it's jesus of nazareth
he says
'peace
be still'
so i still my heart
and quieten my soul

once i do that
all my strivings cease
now i'm resting -
a baby in it's mother's arms
now i'm in a place where my spirit is content

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 4:
content

to be content with what i have
that's my life's goal.
not to desire
anything
that i don't need.
not to long for things
things that can't ever satisfy.

i'm asking jesus of nazareth:
'give me that contentment
give me what you have
give me your peace
all of it'

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 5:
deep

still waters run deep
deep
like the peace
in those who belong to jesus of nazareth

he transfers his tranquillity
deep within
into the secret places of my heart
where fears and doubts lurk

places i'd be afraid to go
if it weren't for him
and the peace he brings

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 6:
prince

let the kings of the world rage
let generals and their armies war
let presidents canvas the people's vote
and parliaments oversee their programmes for government

me, i'm tired of all the bluster and bravado
i'm looking elsewhere for world peace
i'm looking to jesus of nazareth
prince of peace

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

day 7:
flow

like a river
peace flows out from jesus of nazareth
out and into those who're devoted to him
then it flows out from his followers
out into all the world

the world looks on in wonder
it asks 'where can we get this peace?'
this peace that passes all understanding

jesus of nazareth:
in me you will have peace

wk 7: soon.

notes:

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day 1:
soon

jesus of nazareth
now:
just a baby
a little child
soon to become a man
soon to be crucified - for me
then, alive again and returning to God
but coming back soon to put everything right

so i'm waiting
and i'm longing
and i'm praying
and i'm saying,
'come quickly'

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 2:
restore

so, there's a lot of things needing restored
a lot of wrongs to put right

it'll take a government with all it's priorities sorted to put
the world right
a government that works to God's agenda
a government under the authority of a king
a king like jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 3:
new

'i am making everything new' he says
from scratch.
completely new.
not just a lick of paint
not just filler in the cracks
but a new beginning.
jesus of nazareth says he'll do that with the
heavens and the earth
but he also does it with human lives
like mine

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 4:
ready

jesus of nazareth
he's getting ready for the big day
putting everything in place
attending to all the details

soon the preparations'll be complete
and the time to return'll be upon us

me
i'm ready and waiting
putting everything in place
attending to all the details
- like trusting him

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 5:
quickly

come quickly
jesus of nazareth
the world needs you
the nations are bickering
there's so much confusion
we need you more than ever

some laugh and say 'it's been 2,000 years!'
but all of time belongs to you
so i'm not doubting
not for one minute
nor one second.
come.

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 6:
respond

jesus of nazareth says he'll return
so, i can't just ignore it
i mean, it's quite a claim
i can't just sit back and do nothing

so how to respond?
start star-gazing for a sign?

no,
start putting other people first
and let him take care of the return date

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

day 7:
alive

wonderment fills my senses.
amazement at the gift of life.

it all comes from worshipping the life-giver
it comes from the wonder of what God has done
and it comes from the wonder of jesus of nazareth.
once crucified
and buried.
once dead
now alive
for ever
and coming back

jesus of nazareth:
i am coming soon

