

HTL Vision 1 Autumn 2025 | Time to Prepare

Acts 1:3-8 & 12-26

These outlines are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

This outline is designed to last 1 hour, to leave space for fellowship and worship during the session.

Introduction

Christian leaders and prophets of all denominations are hearing the voice of the Lord calling us to wake up and prepare so that we are ready for the harvest that is coming. We are already seeing signs of people's hunger for God particularly, but not exclusively, among young adults, evidenced by many testimonies including that of the secular press. There is much information about this on the web such as the 'Quiet Revival' by the Bible Society. I also recommend the new book 'Awaken' by Anne Calver and John McGinley specifically for this season in the life of the church.

So how are we to wake up and get ready and what's does this mean in practise?

Chris Ingram says the 'Bio' of a Christian is:

B - Before God daily **I** - In Community **O** - On mission.

Before God Daily (30 minutes)

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light." Romans 13:11-12

Before we can move forward, we need to define our current reality whilst being mindful of two dangers: at one end to come under a sense of judgement and failure without seeing the good, and the opposite end having a sense of over optimism through denial of the reality or limiting the more God has for us.

Pause to pray, ask the Holy Spirit for revelation of truth and remind yourself you loved unconditionally by God.

- Reflection and share how sleepy you or awake you are following Jesus, but don't feel to explain yourself or going into problem solving, just state the reality.

- Whether this is positive or negative do you know the reason why? Again, just be honest and avoid going into problem solving.

“In this transitional period the key is not your performance or productivity but your position and posture” (Awaken page 22).

Read Acts 1:3-8 & 12-26

1) Verse 4 WAIT | Verse 14 PRAY

- What do these verses tell us about our position and posture?
- Why are they important as we prepare for the harvest?
- How will you adapt your position and posture to WAIT and PRAY?

2) Verse 23 CHOOSE

The apostles had one task in the waiting and praying, which was to choose a new apostle with the right credentials i.e. a witness of the resurrection. This was their only preparation.

- Why was this important?
- What is the preparation required of us individually, as a community and whole church?

In Community (15 minutes)

1. Give any community and HTL notices
2. Note who is missing and decide how you will contact them between you
3. Share prayer needs and minister to one another

On Mission (15 minutes)

1. Give any community and HTL mission notices, discuss and plan as required
2. Share testimonies of where you've seen God at work
3. Pray for those you know who don't know Jesus and intercede for mission as God leads.

HTL Vision 2 Autumn 2025 | Time to Give

Mark 12:41-44

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Introduction

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Before God Daily (30 minutes)

Begin by honestly sharing how your daily walk with the Lord has been this week and encouraging each other.

As you begin the study together please note that talking about finances and money could be a sensitive and challenging area for some people. Jesus is more concerned with our hearts than monetary amounts when it comes to our attitude towards finances and giving.

Read Mark 12:41-44

1. What words or phrases come to your mind when the topic of money and giving is raised in church? Discuss why and what this might reveal about your attitudes towards this area.
2. What do Jesus' comments in this passage reveal to us about financial giving to the church and what Jesus' thoughts are on issues like generosity and our attitudes towards money?
3. Do you give financially to the church? This question this is not about making people feel guilty or comparing to others, but instead openly sharing experiences, and hopefully encouragements too.
 - (a) If "yes", then how do you do it (e.g., standing order through bank, physical cash), how regularly (e.g., weekly, monthly), how often do you review your giving (e.g., annually, life change) and how do you decide how much to give?

(b) If “no”, what barriers do you face and how could you start?

In Community (15 minutes)

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3. Share prayer needs and minister to one another

On Mission (15 minutes)

1. Give any community and HTL mission notices, discuss and plan as required
2. Share testimonies of where you’ve seen God at work
3. Pray for those you know who don’t know Jesus and intercede for mission as God leads.

HTL Creationtide Autumn 2025 | Created Mission

Psalm 104

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Introduction

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Before God Daily (30 minutes)

Begin by reflecting together how creation connects you to God personally and give prayer of thanks.

Read: Psalm 104

1. Reading this Psalm in its entirety, what kind of relationship would you describe that God has with his creation? What surprises you about this?
2. Why is meditating on how God is involved in creating, sustaining, and ordering creation a call to worship and praise him (v33-34), as the Psalmist does?
3. In the context of this Psalm, why do the writer wish "sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more?" Applying this, what do they do with regards creation that is to be avoided?
4. The only mentions of humans in this Psalm's wonder at God's work in creation are in v14 and perhaps v26. Why is this given that Genesis 1-2 spends much time highlighting our role as pinnacle and stewards of creation? How might this challenge the way we view our relationship with creation today?

In Community (15 minutes)

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3. Share prayer needs and minister to one another

On Mission (15 minutes)

1. Give any community and HTL mission notices, discuss and plan as required
2. Share testimonies of where you've seen God at work
3. Pray for those you know who don't know Jesus and intercede for mission as God leads.