Lent Soup and Supper 2023 – Week 1 of The New Testament you never knew

**The Books of the New Testament**

Anyone who picks up the New Testament will find, if they give it a chance, that it is one of the most explosive books ever written. (N.T. Wright)

**Opening Reflection:**

Are there any questions you have about the New Testament you hope to find an answers to?

**Video Notes:**

The Gospels and Acts

The Letters of Paul

The General Letters

The Book of Revelation

**Group Discussion:**

1. Jesus and the early Christians believed that he was the place that heaven and earth actually meet and come together. If you believe this is true, how is Jesus that place of intersection for you?
2. Read the following passages from the beginning of the four gospel accounts. What similarities do you see? How is John’s different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke?

The book of the family tree of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac of Jacob, Jacob of Judah and his brothers. (Matt 1:1-2)

This is where the good news starts – the good news of Jesus the Messiah, God’s son. Isaiah the prophet put it like this ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of me; he will clear the way for you’: ‘A shout goes up in the desert: Make way for the Lord! Clear a straight path for him!’ (Mark 1:1-3)

Many people have undertaken to draw up an orderly account of the events that heave been fulfilled in our midst. It has been handed down to us by the original eyewitnesses an stewards of the word. So, most excellent Theophilus, since I traced the course of all of it scrupulously from the start, I thought it a good idea to write an orderly account for you, so that you may have secure knowledge about the matters in which you have been instructed. (Luke 1:1-4).

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was close beside God, and the Word was God. In the beginning, he was close beside God. (John 1:1-2)

1. Read the following passage from the first letter of John. How has God revealed his love to lost and sinful people? How does God’s love inspire and teach you to show love to others?

Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent his son to be the sacrifice that would atone for our sins. Beloved, if that’s how God loves us, we ought to love one another in the same way. Nobody has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is completed in us. (1 John 4:10-12)

**During the coming week:**

You are invited to spend some time with Scripture. If you are able, read the following and note any insights you gain about Jesus.

Day 1: Luke 1-2, Matthew 5-6, Mark 15-16, and John 1-2

Day 2: Acts 1-2, 9, 16, and 25

Day 3: Romans 3, Galatians 1, Ephesians 2, Philippians 2, and Colossians 1

Day 4: Hebrews 1-3, James 1-2, 1 Peter 1, 1 John 1, and Jude

Day 5: Revelation 1-4, 19, 21-22