the pilgrim on the journey...
knowing the God has the mountains...
Finding Naasicaa Pt. 1
Letters 1–5, pp. 1–59

Open Book | May 14

https://zoom.us/join
ID = 333-262-992
PW = openbook
padlet.com/david_benson/OpenBook
WELCOME TO OUR

MALYON ALUMNI EVENT

“Where did all the young people go?”
Advice for a Post-Christendom Church

https://traverse.org.au/resources/gen-z-mia/
In Australia, for 18–35 year-olds, most believe in ‘spiritual forces’...

... However, only 40% believe religion is good for people and important to society
~70% Christians ‘drop out’ | 36% prodigals + 36% nomads + 21% habitual + 8% resilient
Lighting of the Fires

Leader/All

We light a fire in the name of the Maker, Who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us...
We light a fire in the name of the Son, Who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us...
We light a fire in the name of the Spirit, Who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning...
Lighting of the Fires

Leader/All

We light three fires for the trinity of love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:
The beginning, the end, the everlasting one.
The Incredulity of Saint Thomas
(Caravaggio | c. 1601 - 1602)
Call to Worship

[Leader] “Christ is risen!”

[Together] “He is risen indeed!”
Call to Worship

We gather:
a community of faith in God’s subversive kingdom.
We gather to celebrate
that no darkness can extinguish light,
to remember
that love will always be more powerful
than death,
and to trust that
peace will always be stronger than violence.

We gather,
a community of faith
in God’s subversive kingdom
Your Story
What does ‘witness’ look like for you?

How do you share the gospel?

OR

What’s one doubt you must probe?

OR

Tell a story of why & how a young person you love left their faith
Confession

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom.

[A few moments of silence for confession]

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Confession

Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future.

We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life.

Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Saviour, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.
Assurance of Pardon

The tomb is empty.
The stone is rolled away.
There is no darkness now, only light.

God continues to renew us and restore us.

We are forgiven, loved and restored,
receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection to rise with our scarred Saviour.

Go and share the wondrous news of God’s love in Jesus the Christ. Amen.
Disruptive Witness
Rethinking words for witness

—thebigstory.com.au/

Theological Critique: truth, goodness, beauty?

Cultural Critique: Does it connect? With whom?

What would you change, and what can you use in your own way?

EPIC STORY
designing for good!
damaged by evil...

set everything right!
sent together to heal...

restored for better!
There was a glimmer of something from my past...

Something good...

Friends, family & fun...

I felt threatened by the world I saw around me... A world full of pain... suffering & hate...

But it was fleeting...

Violence, war, death, abuse...

I longed for something real... something true...
...In my heart I knew that I had been designed for good...

"Creation declares the glory of God! The skies proclaim the work of His hands!" (Psalm 19:1)

"But I was hurt & broken...I was damaged by evil..."

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became pointless & their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:21)
Then, everything changed... Jesus Christ stepped into my pain and took it upon himself.

Hate was exchanged for love. Guilt for freedom. Fear for joy. My new life came with a sense of creative purpose...

He is the one who restored me for better!

No longer victims. In God we're sent to heal.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." (John 3:17)

"A new command I give to you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)
There's real hope... God will finish what He started. Everything will be set right. Now... & forever.

"But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven & a new earth, where righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:13)

The big story designed for good... Damaged by evil... Restored for better... Everything set right...

This is your story... It's our story... ...It's God's big story.
Gospelling
Rethinking words for witness

Theological Critique:
truth, goodness, beauty?

Cultural Critique:
Does it connect? With whom?

What would you change, and what can you use in your own way?

EPIC STORY
Pt. 1, 1–59

L1 An opening word for Naasicaa

L2 The world without and within

L3 Life’s meaning and uncertainty

L4 The doing of good and the persistence of evil

L5 The story of God and the human predicament
Pt. 1, 1–59

**Question** / what didn’t make sense?

**Challenge** / what did you think was wrong?

**Implication** / what wisdom does this offer for being a holistic witness to a post-Christian generation?

**Application** / how might this help us share the good news of God’s reign?
When religious words are exhausted, yet we’re anxious for real hope, how do we share the wonder of our world reborn when centred on Christ?

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NOTICE
To whom is the Spirit drawing your attention—your *one* person as intentional witness?

Wait on the Lord, and watch closely this week to discern what they want/desire.

Pray
Care
Share
SONG | Jesus Loves Me

PRAYER | For those who’ve walked away & need Jesus’ Love
Where is this Jesus, the one you call Messiah?  

*Christ is Risen!  
Christ is here among us!*  

I do not see him.  
I don’t believe you.  

*[LOUDER] Christ is Risen!  
Christ is here among us!*  

Let me see his body,  
his hands and his feet.  

*We are Christ’s body;  
We are Christ’s feet.*
You see the suffering in the world? Where is Jesus now?

*We are going into the world to be the body of Christ.*

Let us go together, let us partner with others.

*For we are the body of Christ: let us share the Good News!*

**Amen.**
Finding Naasicaa Pt. 2
Letters 6–8, pp. 60–110

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Quarry Church
Sundays, 8am
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