



**Build
Discover
Imagine
Create**

Re: Set

**Start
Fuel
Connect
Design**

**Theme Resource Pack
January 2025
(29 December - 1 February)**

Introduction

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.

When we reply to an email **Re:** goes in the subject line. So when God sends us an invitation with Discover in the subject line, we reply through the power of the Holy Spirit, **Re: Discover...**

God is speaking. And it's time for us to reply.

Ready, set...

Weekly Overview

- Re: Set to Rediscover
- Re: Set to Reimagine
- Re: Set to Reconfigure
- Re: Set to Restart
- Re: Set to Remix

Format

Every month we have a God-given theme delving into different aspects and areas of faith. Our themes shape our Daily Worship, live streams and all sorts of other creative things we get up to! Each week runs Sunday - Saturday and each has a series of daily Bible readings and prompts for reflection.

This is a theme remix revisiting and reimagining material we first developed in 2021. We have reset the theme Re:Set and remixed it!

Reset to Rediscover (Week 1, 29 December)

Introduction: 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?

Setting the scene: A ping from your inbox. You've got mail. God's been in touch. Time to hit the reply button...

Seeds to sow: Who are you going to rediscover this year? What friendship or community or collaboration are you going to remember and re-appreciate?

- 1. 1 John 4: 19 Re: Reply all...** All theme we are going to be replying to God with Re: words, like a series of email replies! For our very breath is a reply in a thread that began with God who breathed life into us. If God wrote you an email telling you how much you were loved what would your Re: response be?
- 2. Colossians 3: 12-17 Re: Clothe.** New year, new wardrobe! As we look to reduce, reuse and recycle our physical clothes what are the metaphorical 'outfits' that we are putting together to share compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience?
- 3. Psalm 148 Re: Turn.** (*Hogmanay*) As one year turns over to the next we turn towards God with the words of this psalm on our lips: Praise the Lord! Let's give it laldi with a Hogmanay Hallelujah!
- 4. 1 Samuel 2:18-20 Re: Stitch.** (*New Year's Day*) Hannah stitches and restitches little Samuel's robe every year. We can imagine her stitching all her love and hope into it. Each year she has to make it a little bigger as every year he grows. As a new year begins where do we need to start stitching a little bigger, a little wider, to make more space, more room?
- 5. Psalm 81 Re: Tune.** With portable handheld devices (tambourines, lyres and harps) the psalmist reminds us to retune into God. Chances are you don't have a lyre lying around that you can grab. But you probably do have another portable, handheld device that makes noise and that can help you retune into God. You may even be using to read this prompt...
- 6. Luke 2: 41-52 Re: Adjust.** Imagine raising Jesus — the Messiah! This is just one example of how Mary and Joseph had to readjust as parents of the divine. What other scrapes could they have got into together? And what adjustments have we had to make on the fly as we follow Jesus?
- 7. Acts 8: 26-40 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?" Sometimes in our lives we are the Ethiopian and at other times we're Philip! Who could God be calling you towards to explain the heart of Christianity to as they try to make sense of their faith?

Re: Set to Reimagine (Week 2, 5 January)

Introduction: 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?

Setting the scene: A massive warehouse absolutely bursting with... possibility.

Seeds to sow: Pick a street near where you live. Reimagine it in your mind's eye, what would you change about it? To improve the lives of all who use it. Then take that your reimagining to God in prayer and reflect on what you could do to make your re-imagination a reality.

- 1. Ephesians 1: 3-14 Re: Imagining.** Let's imagine the seal of the Holy Spirit was a literal stamp on our souls. What would the design be? Would everyone's be the same or would each one be unique? What could this picture tell us about how God loves us?
- 2. Acts 10: 44-48 Re: Drawing.** The believers had to redraw their boundaries of who was in and out.
- 3. Isaiah 60: 1-6 Re: Ignite.** (Epiphany) God is not static and does not intend us to be, we are made for vibrant, radiant, ignited life! Where do we want to see faith re-ignited this Epiphany?
- 4. Psalm 107: 1-16 Re: Invigorating.** Renewed in love.
- 5. Psalm 98 Re: Sounding.** Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
- 6. Hosea 11: 1-11 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.
- 7. Exodus 35: 20-35 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?

Re: Set to Reconfigure (Week 3, 12 January)

Introduction: Having rediscovered what we need and reimagined how to get there we ask our Gathering-in God to 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?

Setting the scene: A ragtag bunch of disciples in the first century staring up at the sky and shuffling their feet, not sure what to do next...

Seeds to sow: How could society be reconfigured to be fairer?

1. **Acts 1: 1-11 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 Re: Commit.** Recommitting and reshaping ourselves through praise.
3. **Ephesians 1: 15-23 Re: Member.** The importance of remembering one another — beloved members of the same body — in prayer.
4. **Psalm 29 Re: Configured.** God's very voice reconfigures creation! Are we listening?
5. **John 17: 1-19 Re: Iterate.** In this phenomenal prayer we hear what it is Christ would reiterate before the events of the Passion. He would have us protected, joyful, sanctified, sent.
6. **John 17: 20-26 Re: Iterate again and again!** Jesus reiterates time and again in our lives that we should be one. How are we getting on with that?
7. **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Re: Claiming.** The loving Father God acknowledges his Son, laying claim to him. God also lovingly claims us, acknowledging us as his own.

Reset to Restart (Week 4, 19 January)

Introduction: 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?

Setting the scene: Wedding party.

Seeds to sow: What do you want to see restart? Begin again? Go back to square one?

- 1. Isaiah 62:1-5 Re: Do.** Sometimes we need just need a do-over, a fresh start, a recommitment. The compelling picture in this reading is reminiscent of a renewal of vows, a repair of a relationship.
- 2. John 2: 1-11 Re: Fuel.** Jesus refuels the jars, refuels the guests, and refuels the party! Often we need to refuel before we can restart. In what ways are we asking Jesus to refuel us for the year ahead?
- 3. Numbers 11: 24-30 Re: Setting.** Even when we don't set out to reset or restart we can find ourselves suddenly moved by the Spirit and resetting anyway. Eldad and Medad didn't go looking for the Spirit, but the Spirit found them anyway...
- 4. Psalm 36: 5-10 Re: Store.** What do we put store in to restore us? What do we rely on? What can we rely on?
- 5. John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Re: Enthuse.** We have an advocate to champion us, to restart the engine and enthuse us!
- 6. 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 Re: Gift.** As we restart how can we share our gifts to bless others?
- 7. John 7: 37-39 Re: Start.** When we are thirsty we can come to the Father, to the Son, to the Spirit and start again...

Re: Set to Remix (Week 5, 26 January)

Introduction: Setting, resetting, and remixing with Jesus who continually revives, restores and revitalises us!

Setting the scene: DJ decks.

Seeds to sow: What's your remix for 2025? What are you going to shake up, re-imagine and re-approach this year?

- 1. Nehemiah 8: 1-12 Re: Visit.** We revisit scripture for repeat encounters throughout our lives. The process can be both sobering and enlivening, solemn and celebratory! And it's crucially important that we do it together like in this reading, to support one another.
- 2. Psalm 19 Re: Vitalising** Revival and rejoicing.
- 3. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Re: Arranging.** God deliberately arranged humanity to be incredibly diverse and resilient, a complex system that mutually supports each component. A body is a living thing that adapts to circumstances. Where are we calling for the Holy Spirit to remix and rearrange us so that all might thrive?
- 4. Luke 4:14-21 Re: Constituting.** This part of the Gospel of Luke is sometimes referred to as The Jesus Manifesto, Jesus's mission statement. How does Jesus's constitution compare with our contemporary constitutions and mission statements?
- 5. Luke 20: 20-26 Re: View.** The establishment sends spies to trap Jesus — to put him in an impossible situation. But Jesus changes the point of view and neatly steps above their games.
- 6. Matthew 21: 12-17 Re: Take.** Jesus retakes the temple from the moneylenders and profiteers! It has been repurposed and now needs to be re-repurposed!
- 7. Acts 16: 25-34 Re: Mix.** I tell you what, Paul and Silas's hymn remixes but have had some welly! Never underestimate the power of singing! The breaking down of the wall leads to a remix of the situation — suddenly the prisoners are free and it is the jailer who is trapped, but Paul immediately releases him. What had been a situation of antagonism and fear has become one of togetherness and celebration. This is the Jesus remix. A vivid picture of how we are to sing it out, break down walls and transform relationships, bringing others into the place of Christ.