

TVP Christian Education 4Q2025 - Life Explored! Unexpectedly reassuring - Worryingly challenging

I love God's word and meeting with Him through the Spirit when I read it. We read in Psalm 1, "*Blessed is the one... (whose) delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on God's Law he meditates day and night.*" As a school child, a new Religious Education teacher asked us to learn this Psalm by heart in his first lesson at my school. Surprisingly to me, a 'typical' teenager, many aspects have stuck with me over the decades... but what about "*...meditates day and night...*"! Then in retirement, I bit the bullet, and I have already completed over ninety on-line Bible Study classes that have been brilliant, and through which I genuinely feel truly blessed.

There's always change in life. Sometimes it's unexpectedly reassuring and sometimes it's worryingly challenging. All of us know what a tortoise is, many of us will have experience of them as pets. Ironically, we don't see them in TV wildlife. We see Killer Whales and Eagles, Elephants and Crocodiles, occasionally a Galapagos Giant Tortoise. However, this summer I saw a wild tortoise in a peaceful ravine slowly chewing on tree debris; unexpectedly re-assuring.



What reassures you? What is behind your life plans? How do you cope with change? What does the Bible say about life? On October 8, we start a series of **Life Explored** experiences, looking through the Bible starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. We're using interactive sessions centred around a collection of silent films from across the world creating "*Nathan Moments*"; as the prophet Nathan did for King David in 2 Samuel 12... worryingly challenging.

Life Explored offers the opportunity to consider varied questions that help us understand our search for fulfilment, and Jesus's offer of life in all its fullness. It's for confused Christians, convinced atheists, and **everybody** in between, providing a time to discover what Jesus has to say about the big questions of life that we wrestle with.

A typical evening will include:

- watching a short *Nathan Moment* video and sharing our reaction to it,
- watching a short video commentary on it,
- sharing a Bible reading (*from Genesis to Revelation*) and discussion questions

contrasting the God of the Bible with "gods" we all too easily give our lives to instead.

The series of seven sessions will run from Wednesday 8 October, weekly, and so finish on 19 November. Our intention is each evening would last about an hour from 7.30pm, with light refreshments beforehand from 7pm. We suspect that due to numbers we would hold it in Cranstoun. So, as part of our ongoing TVP Christian Education programme, we have already completed **Christianity Explored**, **Discipleship Explored**, and **Bible Explored**... now we're doing **Life Explored**.

We need to ensure we have enough materials, refreshments, etc., so please come and join us to be reassured and challenged; and let me know preferably by e-mail at... tynevalleyparish@hotmail.co.uk

"I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Allister Crompton, TVP Lay Pastor

