



SCENE IN CONTEXT

Theme Resource Pack
August 2025
(3 August - 6 September)

Introduction

This month we thought it would be interesting to highlight the importance of interpreting and understanding scripture in a contemporary context. So each Bible reading this month comes with a brief description of a contemporary scene. We ask our Daily Worship writers, worship leaders, and Connect groups to picture these scenes and then bear them in mind while reading the Bible texts.

How does Hosea sound when we picture a noisy creche?

Or the Gospel of Luke when we are sitting in a tractor next to a farmer?

How about the letter to the Hebrews while we picture the upheaval and confusion of a hastily assembled refugee camp?

We offer a wide range of various contexts and situations in which the writer, reader and God find themselves in conversations which are being illustrated before their very eyes by the surroundings they find themselves in. What do we discover anew about these texts when we read them alongside vivid contemporary scenes?

Sometimes the images seek to draw parallels with modern life and at other times we have looked for a contrasting scene to stimulate our reflection. We hope to spark off conversations between God, writer, and reader; allowing the Holy Spirit to direct the conversations into different areas of thought.

Context is hugely important in helping us understand Scripture. Both the context in which it was written and the context in which we find ourselves reading it today. Some scripture has significance for a community that has still to be formed while other scripture helps us understand how God has spoken to people in the past. The voice of God as heard in Scripture is never spoken in a vacuum. It is always spoken in context in order to give us meaning and direction in our lives.

This month as we read scripture together it is our prayer that we will take these scenes to God and use them as starters to bring about conversations with others in order to connect our friends and families into the great conversations in Scripture.

Weekly Overview

- Opening scenes
- A change of scene
- Jump scene
- Bursting on to the scene
- Closing scenes

Format

Every month we have a God-given theme delving into different aspects and areas of faith. Over the course of 2025 these themes connect and take us on a faith journey out into the wonders of life with Jesus. 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.

Opening scenes (Week 1, 3 August)

Introduction: What happens when we pair ancient words with contemporary images?

Setting the scene: The opening sequence of a film, establishing shots telling us about the location.

Seeds to sow: How does extreme wealth and poverty change how people read the Bible?

1. **Hosea 11: 1-11 Scene 1: A noisy creche, full of toys and chaos.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
2. **Psalm 107: 1-9, 43 Scene 2: Families talking to one another as they queue at a food bank.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
3. **Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Scene 3: A wealthy individual at the marina surveying their vast boat collection alongside their heir.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
4. **Psalm 49: 1-12 Scene 4: A songwriter sits in a dimly lit studio trying to find the right lyric.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
5. **Colossians 3: 1-11 Scene 5: A person who has a sore neck from looking down at their screen doomscrolling for the last five hours.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
6. **Luke 12: 13-15 Scene 6: An acrimonious family gathered around a contentious will in a solicitor's office.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
7. **Luke 12: 16-21 Scene 7: An architect designing an extension for an old farmhouse on a lifestyle TV show.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?

A change of scene (Week 2, 10 August)

Introduction: God is continually speaking to us. Are we listening?

Setting the scene: A panorama wide angle of a lakeside.

Seeds to sow: Does living in a rural or an urban environment change how we read the Bible?

1. **Isaiah 1: 10-20 Scene 1: A group of festival organisers gathered around a flip chart.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
2. **Psalm 50: 1-2 Scene 2: Two friends walking along the lakeside, deep in conversation about life and the universe, as the early morning sun hits the water.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
3. **Genesis 15: 1-6 Scene 4: Someone with insomnia at a campsite, who has gone out of their tent to look up at night sky.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
4. **Psalm 33: 12-22 Scene 5: A government departmental meeting allocating funding to respond to a global crisis.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
5. **Hebrews 11: 1-3 Scene 6: As astrophysicist in a lab studying the mysteries of the universe.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
6. **Hebrews 11: 8-16 Scene 6: Someone sitting quietly in a refugee camp praying.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
7. **Luke 12: 32-40 Scene 7: A staff room of an emergency response unit.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?

Jump scene (Week 3, 17 August)

Introduction: In film editing a 'jump scene' or a 'jump cut' is when a clip is cut surprisingly short and jumps suddenly to something else — throwing the viewer off kilter. This week we look at jump scenes in the Bible!

Setting the scene: A shock going through a cinema audience.

Seeds to sow: Could churches lead the way in restoring and renewing neglected and derelict land?

1. **Isaiah 5: 1-7 Scene 1: A bulldozer demolishing a condemned building.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
2. **Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19 Scene 2: A community group submitting an application to transform derelict land.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
3. **Jeremiah 23: 23-29 Scene 3: A glossy advert for a wonder-cure designed to scam people.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
4. **Psalm 82 Scene 4: One of those criminal investigation boards covered in pins and threads, clues and evidence.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?.
5. **Hebrews 11:29 - 12:1 Scene 5: The rubble and wreckage of a battlefield being cleared away as scarred land is healed.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
6. **Hebrews 12: 2 Scene 6: Making eye contact with Jesus.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
7. **Luke 12: 49-56 Scene 7: Someone scrolling through social media and news alerts.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?

Bursting on to the scene (Week 4, 24 August)

Introduction: Some scenes in our lives are indelible, they stay with us forever... and forever change how we see the world...

Setting the scene: Jesus bursting on to the scene in the synagogue.

Seeds to sow: If you were to pick three 'scenes' from the Bible that mean a lot to you and stay with you, what would they be?

1. **Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Scene 1: A group of young people in a classroom organising a group to advocate for climate action.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
2. **Psalms 71: 1-6 Scene 2: Refugees on the road facing the threat of people smugglers and human trafficking.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
3. **Isaiah 58: 9b-14 Scene 3: A spontaneous street party with neighbours eating together and celebrating on the street.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
4. **Psalms 103: 1-8 Scene 4: Catching your reflection in the mirror during your morning routine.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
5. **Hebrews 12: 18-29 Scene 5: A group of hillwalkers in a valley between two mountains craning their necks upwards.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
6. **Luke 13: 10-17 Scene 6: Jesus coming along as a friend to sit beside a woman at a job centre.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
7. **1 John 4: 7-12 Scene 7: Jesus standing on a crowded bus, arms stretched reading out to hold two of the straps to keep him upright.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?

Closing scenes (Week 5, 31 August)

Introduction: As our scenes come to a close what have we seen? What have we discovered, or rediscovered? What has changed within us?

Setting the scene: The poignant closing scenes before the end credits.

Seeds to sow: What 'endings' from books, films or other media have always stayed with you?

1. **Jeremiah 2:4-13 Scene 1: A group protesting drinking water that has been polluted.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
2. **Psalms 81:1, 10-16 Scene 2: Someone lost in the wilderness stumbling across wild honey.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
3. **Proverbs 25: 6-7 Scene 3: A politician in an office trying to claim credit for a policy they had nothing to do with.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
4. **Psalms 112 Scene 4: A group of devoted Christians wading through funding applications,** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
5. **Hebrews 13: 1-2 Scene 5: An unexpected visitor showing up at the door.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
6. **Hebrews 13: 15-16 Scene 6: Two people sharing a sandwich between them.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?
7. **Luke 14: 1, 7-14 Scene 7: Jesus sitting sprawled out on a bench eating takeaway food with a noisy crew blaring music on their phones and laughing uproariously.** Picture the scene. How do we read these words in this context?