RE:CALIBRATE

Sticking with Jesus

What does re:calibrate mean?

Have you ever changed your mind about something big before – maybe a value or belief?

What was it and why did you change your mind?

What helps you to re:calibrate your life so that you keep sticking with Jesus?

Read **Acts 11:26** to find out what the first followers of Christ were called.
The disciples were called _____ first at _____.

Did you know that back in the day, this term was meant as an insult?

But there has been a **re:**calibration somewhere along the way, and now 'Christian', meaning 'follower of Christ' or 'little Christ', is not considered an insult anymore.

Although, not everyone thinks positively of Christians...

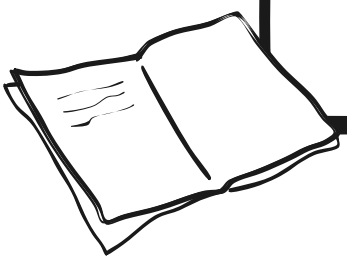
? How would you describe what a Christian is to someone who is hearing the term for the first time?

? Is what you described different from what you have seen in some Christians you know? How?

? Is what you described different from how you live your life? How?

? What ideas have you heard people say about God that you would like to help them **re:**calibrate?

I was having a really nice chat with God and was asking Him to help me to treat everyone I met with love - even those I find annoying, and who I might otherwise choose to avoid. The thought came to mind that every single human, even if they know God or not (and if they are annoying or not!), were created in His image. There is a bit of Him inside us all. So I started looking for Jesus in everyone I interacted with that day, and I can tell you that it was a super special day. I can't explain it, but I suddenly had this extra patience and love for everyone I met and felt so close to Jesus cos I was seeing Him all over the place!



Try it for yourself tomorrow - or even from this moment on!
I ***challenge*** you to **re:**calibrate your focus to look for Jesus in everyone you lay eyes on and see how the world looks through this lens.

BUT!

? **Important question**: **How do YOU view Jesus?**
Because how YOU see Jesus will impact how you see Him in other people. In the same way, the ideas that others have about God are going to impact how they view YOU...a follower of God.

Read **Matthew 5:11-16** and fill in the blanks for **V16**.
'In the same way, let your _____ _____ before _____, that they may _____ your _____ _____ and _____ your Father in _____.'

? We read that it is not good to have no salt, and neccessary to have some salt. But what would having too much salt look like in this context of faith and how we live our lives?

Read **3 John 1:11** and fill in the blanks.
'Dear friend, do not _____ what is _____ but what is _____. Anyone who does what is good is _____ God. _____ who does what is evil _____ _____ _____ God.'

Read **Matthew 22:34-40** and fill in the blanks for **V37** and **V39**.
'37 Jesus replied: "'_____ the Lord _____ God with _____ _____ _____ and with all your _____ and with all your _____."

'39 And the _____ is like it: '_____ your _____ as _____."

? What is your perspective on 'commandments'?

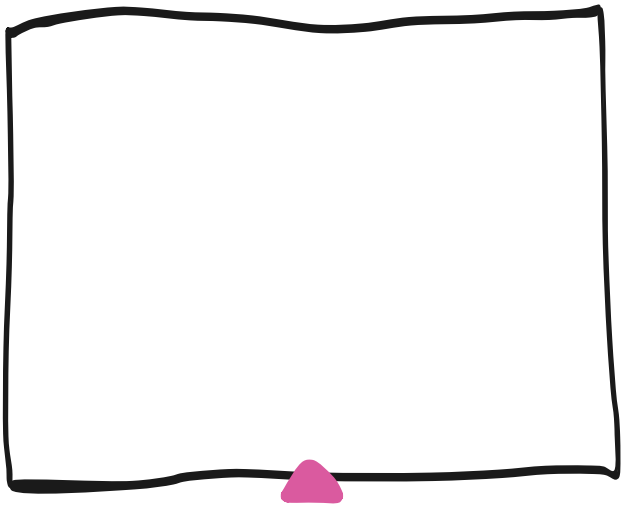
? What are some other words we could use for 'commandment'?

Out of all the commandments / instructions God gave to guide us to a better life, He highlighted the 2 we just read as being the MOST important.
This must have been a **re:**calibration to a lot of people's way of thinking.
Can it be that simple?

CROSS SHAPED FAITH

1.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

If I were to draw this, I would draw a vertical line going up from me to God.



2.
Love your neighbour as yourself.

If I were to draw this, I would draw a horizontal line going from me to the people around me.

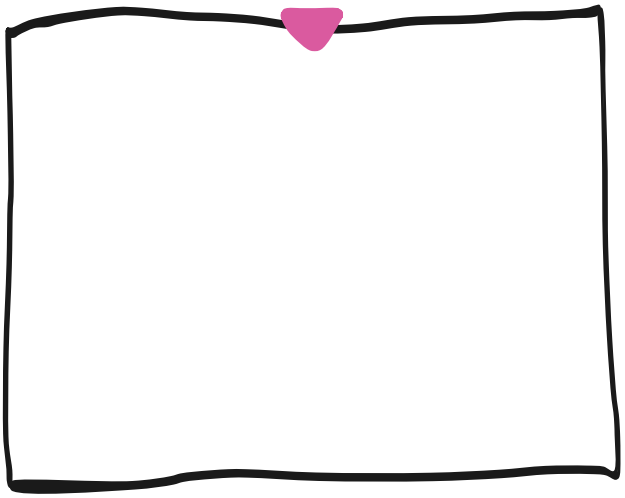
Draw these lines in the box **without them touching**.

On their own, these lines are just sticks.

Sometimes 'Christians' call this stick 'God' and hit others with it.
That can portray God and Christianity in a bad light.
(Not the kind we want to shine from the hill top!)

But what happens if those 'sticks' intersected?

Draw these 2 'commandment sticks' so that they intersect and see how they look together.



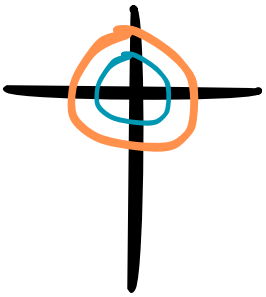
Suddenly, these 2 sticks become a cross.

? What does the cross mean to you?

By Jesus dying on the cross (and rising again - yay for that!), He beat death.
He did this for us, so that we could be **re:**united for eternity.

So when you look at the very centre of the cross, you can see where the greatest 2 commandments meet - God's love for you specifically, and for everyone else in the world.

It's like looking through the scope on a camera to line up the perfect shot.
God has **YOU** in centre focus.



- Google the lyrics to a song called '**Cross shaped life**' and read them as you listen to the song.
- Write down any thoughts or lyrics that stood out to you.

_____

_____

_____

_____

The captain of a ship is constantly checking and making small **re:**calibrations and adjustments to keep it on the right track. It is the same for our lives.

Let's brainstorm simple ways that we can **re:**calibrate and **re:**align our lives to look more like a 'cross shaped life' as we grow in Christ.

Below is a list of different aspects of life.
Next to each point, write 1 thing you will do to **re:**focus that part of your life back on God.
Make sure what you write is something you **can** and **will actually** do!

Aspect of life	What I will do
Time with God	
Words we say	
Things we do	
Our thoughts	
Prayer	
Free time	
School / work	

To have our actions best **re:**flect what we believe - not what society wants or expects - we need to check-in with ourselves.

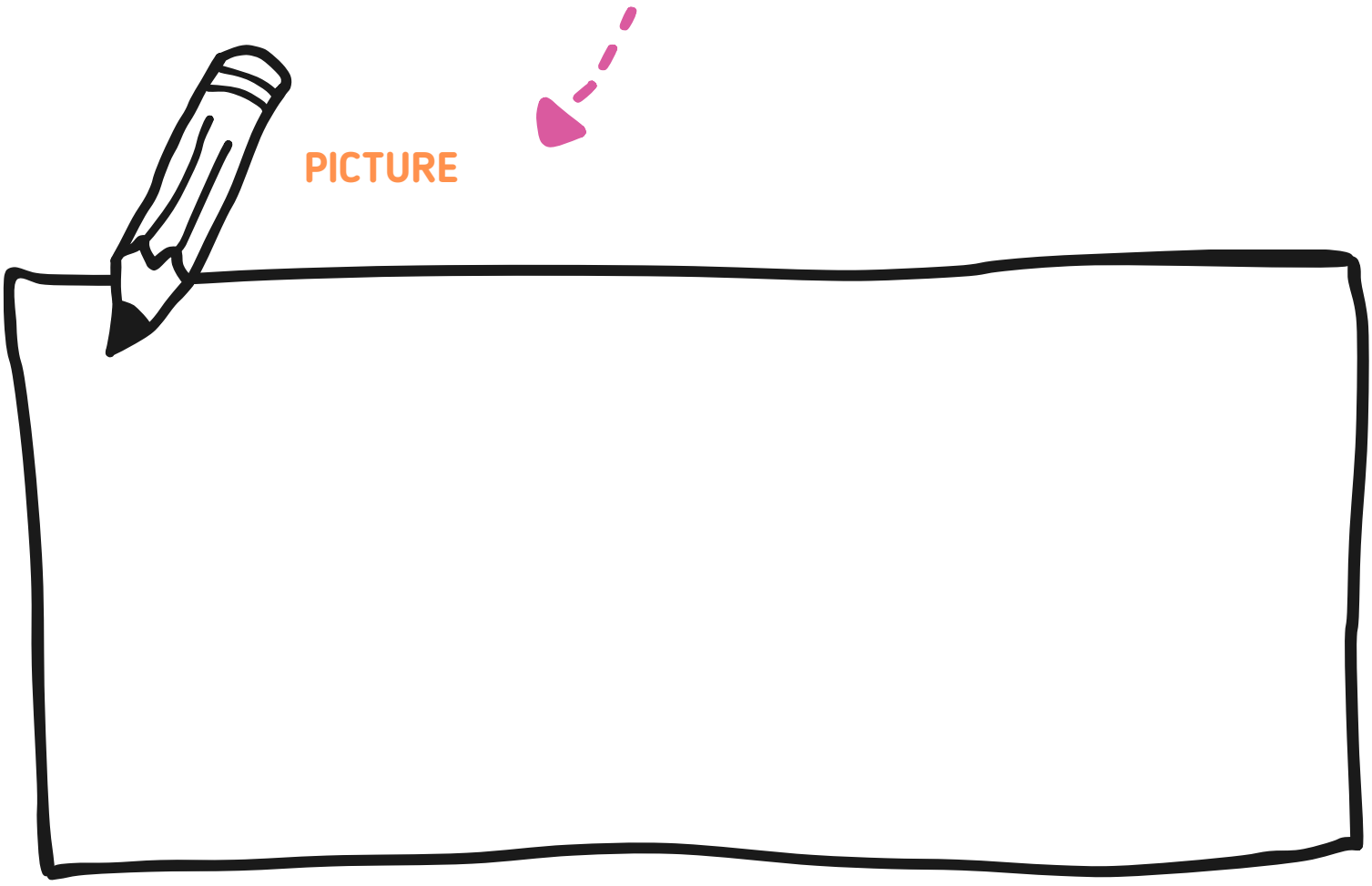
? How was it to check-in with yourself and make a plan to include God in your normal life routines?

When Jesus rose again after defeating death, Mary (one of his followers) saw Him but didn't **re:**cognise Him, as something big had changed. Her picture of Him needed **re:**calibrating, but when she saw Jesus with new eyes, she learned to **re:**cognise Him.

? Is it Jesus or us who changes?

? If Jesus is the constant, what does that mean for us?

? If we are the constant, what does that mean for Jesus?



Draw something to represent your thoughts and feelings after this moment together. Or, if you are not thrilled about drawing, go back through today's gathering and use a colour or symbol, underline or circle the words that stood out to you. Is there a theme in what you noticed?

SONG

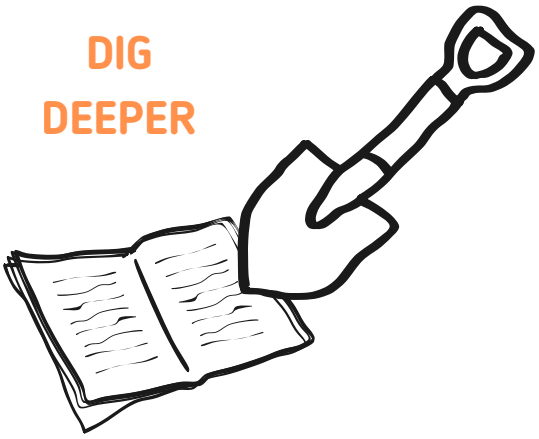
I Choose You - *Jon Reddick*

QUOTE

Be careful how you live; you may be the only Bible some people will ever read.

– *William J. Toms*

DIG DEEPER



Extra verses to extend the exploration!

- Malachi 3:6-7
- Hebrews 13:1-8 (especially V5 & 8)
- James 1:12-18

PONDER

- How do you view Christ and is He someone you want to become more like?
- What kind of 'little Christ' would you like to be and what are some **re:**calibrations you will make to better shine His light in your every day?

WORD

Summarise this time together in 1 word or sentence.

*What is something you want to **re:**member?*

Use this word now in a short prayer between you and God.

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