

Your life's work ...

Work, rest & retirement - May 2022

Wk 3

Sunday 15 May 2022

TODAY'S 9:45^{AM} SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Esther 4:1-17](#) &
[Phil 2:1-11](#)
(Bible p.495, p1179)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to
our online service
please don't feel
obliged to contribute
financially.

Most St Stephen's
collection is received
electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

Welcome to St Stephen's. Whatever your past week has entailed, we hope you find a time of spiritual refreshment, reminders of God's goodness and warm friendships. We would love to hear from you. You can use the QR code that links to an electronic form to reach out to us. Or simply come say hi after the service. We would love to hear from you.

We have spent the last few weeks thinking about the place and shape of 'work and rest' in our lives. Do you feel like you have a healthy balance between the two? If you have been here over the past two weeks, what has struck you about the Bible's message? Will you be changing anything? We would love to hear your continuing thoughts on this topic. Send us your thoughts via the *comments section* in the QR Code form.



Today we start to give more shape to the topic of work. What should be the goal of our work? What is our ultimate aim in working? The Bible will establish a different priority for our efforts. It will push against our natural tendency to climb the ladder. How will we respond?



St Stephen's
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Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

⁶“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7a

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Goal of our work | Passage: [Esther 4:1-17](#) and [Phil 2:1-11](#)

(Bible p.495, p1179)

1. Seeking God's glory:

3 Thoughts

1.

2.

3.

2. Fear of being forgotten

3. The true glory of Christ

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. List various motivations people bring to their work.

Read Phil 2:1-11

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

1. What did Jesus give up?
2. Describe/note the stages of his descent.
3. What happened when he was exalted?

Read Col 3:23 & Titus 2:9-10

1. What are slaves/workers to do?
2. What purpose is there for their work?

2. What might it look like to glorify God in your workplace? Can the group help you think this through?
3. What does it look like to work with humility?
4. Why can such work be hard? What might we fear?

5. How does the image of Christ help us see the value of humility?
How does it deal with your fears mentioned before?

6. How can you imprint the image of Christ on your mind this week?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. What is your favourite hymn/worship song?
2. What truth about God has a song help you remember?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would raise up more musicians to serve us on Sundays.
2. Pray God would enable you to serve him in your work.

Read the Bible with us!

1. How does God call you to act in your places of work today?
2. What might it cost you to glorify God today?
3. How can Christ comfort and encourage you today?
4. Pray God would allow you to use your work to glorify him.

Monday - [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

Tuesday - [Col 3:23](#)

Wednesday - [Titus 2:9-10](#)

Thursday - [1 Tim 4:4-5](#)

Friday - [1 Peter 3:15-16](#)

Notices

Hope Explored - Week 2 Update

We had our second session of the Hope Explored course last Wednesday night. We looked at how Jesus offers us the peace of God. As always, the food was excellent, and so was the vibe. The guests asked some great questions. They wanted to keep chatting at the end night about Jesus, the issues of leading a Christian life, and the Christian faith. We are taking a week off next week and resuming on Wed 25 May.



Gossiping the Gospel Conference

After his talks at the training nights, we continue our Evangelism Training journey with David Robertson in a day-long [Gossiping the Gospel Conference](#). It is an opportunity for further training in Bringing our Friends to Faith. In addition to David, a wide range of presenters like Sam Chan will speak on topics ranging from how to address common questions people have on Christianity to how to introduce Jesus in everyday conversations. It will be great to have a group from St Stephen's go along to the conference. There will be other Christians from churches around Sydney too. Register for the David Robertson training nights and the conference [here](#).



Conference Details: Saturday 4 June, 9am-4pm

Venue: St Anne's Ryde **Cost:** \$69 including lunch.

Encounter - A group for Seniors'

Encounter is primarily a ministry to seniors (60 plus), providing friendship, fellowship, and intellectual stimulation. The group meets from 10am to 1pm on the third Thursday of each month. Morning tea, and lunch are provided. We also collect a donation at the door to support this ministry. After a long break due to COVID-19 we are meeting again on Thursday 19 May 2022 in the Chapel Hall.

Serving on Sundays

Each Sunday, we are greatly indebted to volunteers who serve at church in numerous ways. Our services would not happen without them. We are still short of people in multiple departments. We are especially looking for people who can serve on the Music Team and the AV Team. We provide training to people who join the team. If you have a gift in music or are good with a computer, would you consider volunteering to serve our church on Sunday? Please talk/email Gordon at gordon@st-stephens.com.au.



Sunday Kid at St. Stephen's

Sunday Kid's all is about 'growing the young in their devotion to God's word'. We want kids to know, love and obey Jesus, and so each week, our teachers faithfully teach the Bible. For Gumnuts (Preschool kids), this looks like reading a short story from the Bible, singing Jesus songs, free play and a simple craft. This term, they are learning that God is kind. For Gum Leaves (K-2) and Blue Gums (3-6), everything we do reinforces the big idea of the lesson. They begin with a game, hear a short bible talk, pray, discuss the Bible passage and finish with an activity. We believe that following Jesus is the best, so we make our programs fun. This term, they are learning that the good news about Jesus is for everyone!

Link Missionaries

St. Stephen's has eight link missionaries (or mission organisations). These people and groups work in Australia and in various parts of the world to give people the opportunity to hear and respond to the Christian message. In June this year, we will have visits from David Blackman (Wycliffe Bible Translators) on 5 June - and Al & Liz Walker (SIM) - on 19 June - when they return to Australia for a short holiday. Do not miss being at church for these occasions. Hearing from our link missionaries is deeply encouraging. It reminds us of the implications and blessings of the Christian message.



What's Coming Up

Monday 16th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 17th	Playtime Week 3
Wednesday 18th	Hope Explored Course - Pause for a week.
Thursday 19th	Encounter 10am to 1pm.
Friday 20th	Half Past Six - Week 3
Saturday 21st	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Sunday 29th	Newish Morning Tea

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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