

# This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 4

## Sunday 20 February 2022

*Our 9:45 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.*

### TODAY'S 9:45<sup>AM</sup> SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[John 2:1-12](#)  
(Bible - p.1063)
- 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

Welcome to St Stephen's we are glad to have you with us. We would love to hear from you - would you take a moment to fill in our online Connect Card by scanning the QR Code?



Over the past weeks, many aspects of our church life have been restarting. We're running a course called Alpha for those who want to explore the Christian faith and ask questions. Our midweek groups have restarted with a renewed focus on the good news of Jesus in our lives. Our kids and youth programs have kicked off with something for all ages. A group is meeting on Sunday afternoons to get a better grasp of the Bible as they complete a correspondence course (PTC).

In our Sunday Services we have started looking at Jesus through the eyes of his friend, apostle, and eyewitness John. Jesus presents us with a picture of God that is unexpected, marvellous, and meant to draw out of us joy, wonder, awe, and gratitude. How do you respond to Jesus? Ultimately our hope is you will find a deep personal connection with Christ.



St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

## 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.

<sup>1</sup>If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for adopting us as your children  
and making us heirs of eternal life.  
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins  
and made us clean in your sight.  
Yet we still fail to love you as we should  
and serve you as we ought.  
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,  
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,  
in whom alone is our salvation. 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 forever.  
Amen

# Sermon Notes

A better joy | [John 2:1-12](#) (Bible - p.1063)

## 1. The change on offer

Preconceived notions

A surprising joy

## 2. The challenge of Christianity

The servants

You and I?

A culture of shame

## 3. The difference of Christianity

The old way - the contract

The new way - the marriage

## Connect Group Notes

1. What is appropriate about a marriage being the start of Jesus's ministry and the Christian faith? Why might others disagree with a joyful celebration marking the start of the Christian faith?

### Read John 2:1-12

#### Getting your head around the passage:

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

What is the problem that confronts Jesus? How does Mary respond? Why does she do this?

How does Jesus respond? Why is he hesitant?

What does he ask the servants to do? How do they respond?

What is the outcome? How does that benefit the bridegroom?

What is the purpose of this 1st miracle?

2. If you were in the shoes of the servants why would you have done what Jesus said, or perhaps, why would you have found it hard to do what he said?
3. "*Do whatever he says*" - if that is the call of the Bible to each follower - where is that most challenging for you this week? How does the approval / disapproval of others get in the way of this for you?

4. Wine is a symbol of blessing and celebration in the Bible. It was also a symbol of judgment (see Jer 25:15-17; John 18:11). What is the surprising twist that Jesus brings to this imagery in his ministry?
  
5. Why is the message of the Christian faith different to all other religions when it comes to obedience?
  
6. Why can obedience to Jesus be joyful in light of his ministry?

### Prayer

- What can you ask for forgiveness for this week?
- Who can you pray for who needs to understand the real joy of the following Jesus?

### Read the Bible with us!

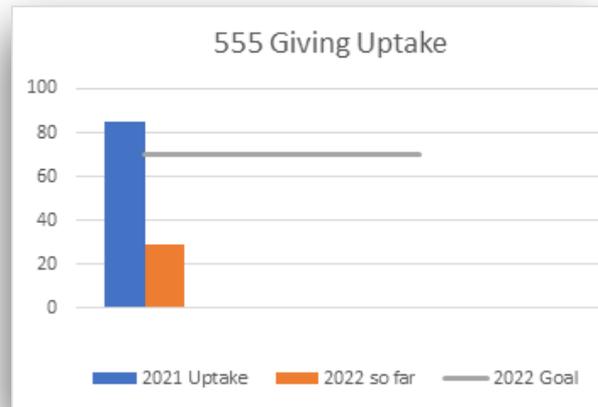
1. What is happening in the surrounding verses?
2. What questions do you have (take them to your midweek group)
3. What do we learn about Jesus?
4. If this is true, how should you respond?

Monday - John 2:1-5  
Tuesday - John 2:6-11  
Wednesday - John 2:13-17  
Thursday - John 2:18-22  
Friday - John 2:23-25

# Notices

## 555 Plan

In 2021 members of our church committed to increasing their giving by 5% each year for 3 years. This reflected a desire to see the good news of Jesus go further and deeper into people's lives. It reflected an understanding that ministry and community here at St Stephen's is a product of the generosity of members (nothing comes from outside sources). Importantly, it reflected a conviction that all we have comes from God, belongs to God, and is given to us to give to others. If you haven't increased your giving, would you consider doing so? We would love to see 70% of our members increase their giving by our AGM at the end of March (currently ~30% have).



## Serving on Sunday

On our Vision Sunday we were encouraged from the Bible to consider the wonderful and deep commitment we have to each other as members of God's church. We belong to each other because of God's mercies which allow us to belong to him!

What does it mean to belong to each other? In part, serving alongside each for the sake of others. We serve to express our faith, to experience our faith in fuller terms, to grow our faith, to commend our faith to others and to grow the faith of others. Would you consider signing up for a Sunday Service ministry? Click here for the [form](#). If you have more questions see our Serving on Sundays booklet or talk to a staff member.

## NCLS Survey Coming Up

On Sunday 6 March we will run the NCLS Survey in church. This will be an opportunity to get feedback on how our church is going – especially valuable following the great disruption of COVID. It will take place in our service and we will endeavour for our services to run to a similar time as normal. For that reason, we will move the monthly celebration of the Lord's Supper to the second Sunday in March.

## Picnic at Bales Park

Our Church will be going to Bales Park for a picnic after the 13th March 9:45am service. We will hang out together, have food, play games and have fun. This relaxed environment is perfect for the whole family. We hope that this is a chance for our newish members to get to know our long-timers. We have also invited our playtime families and we hope this will help them get more connected in the community.



**When:** Sunday 13th March, 2022.

**Time:** After 9:45 service. (there will be no morning tea)

**Where:** Bales Park, Willoughby.

**Bring:** Picnic blanket, something to eat, games.

## Newish morning tea.

Since the end of lockdown last year, it has been wonderful to have some new people join us. To welcome all newcomers, we will be having our first New/Newish morning tea for 2022 on Sunday 27 February after our morning service at 11am in the church office. This will be a great opportunity to meet up and get to know each other, find out a bit about St Stephens, meet the staff team, ask questions and find out about programs and about how St Stephens might help as we learn together what it means to follow Jesus.

## Playtime

Playtime is for 0-5-year-olds and their carers; we meet Tuesday 9:30-11:15 am. The kids enjoy games, stories, crafts, and free play while adults enjoy a cuppa and time to spend with

other parents. It is a wonderful, inclusive group where we love to talk about the big questions of life and help each other to navigate the joys and challenges of raising little ones. Who can you bring along? You can register @ [st-stephens.com.au/kidsandyouth](https://st-stephens.com.au/kidsandyouth)



## What's Coming Up

Sunday 20th	PTC Course Week 2
Monday 21st	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 22nd	Playtime - <a href="#">More Info</a>
Wednesday 23rd	Alpha Course 2022
Friday 25th	Half Past Six.
Sunday 27th	Newish Morning Tea. — March —
Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park after 9:45am Church.

## Our Staff - Contact us!



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