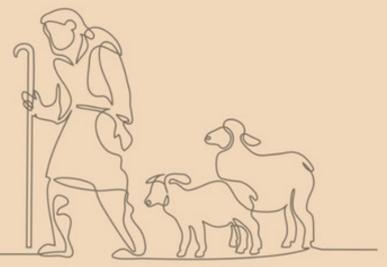


# This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 5

## Sunday 27 February 2022

**TODAY'S  
9:45AM  
SERVICE:**

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[John 2:23-3:21](#)  
(Bible - p.1064)
- 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 9:45 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.*

Welcome to St Stephen's! Great to have you join us this morning. We hope you enjoy the service, find time to reflect on the big truths being discussed, and a warm welcome from our church family. You may want to respond to our service in some way. You can do that by either chatting with the person you came with, using the QR code to fill in an electronic connect card, or touching base with one of our staff who you saw upfront.



Today's message is based on John's account of Jesus's life. In particular, we are reflecting on some of the most famous words in the Bible – God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 is a well-rehearsed bible verse. You find references to it at football games, protests, in kids' songs, and tattooed on sports persons' arms. Don't let the good yet challenging news of this verse to pass you by. God is saying something wonderful and life-changing – will you believe it?



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,  
You have loved us with an everlasting love,  
but we have gone our own way,  
and rejected your will for our lives.  
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.  
For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.  
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,  
and to please you in every way; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Born of the Spirit | [John 2:32-3:21](#) (Bible - p.1064)

## 1. Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus:

1. A ruler of the Jews

2. Drawn to Jesus

## 2. Entering the kingdom of God

1. Born of water and Spirit

2. Unseen work of God

## 3. Son of Man to be lifted up

1. Moses and the serpent

2. Jesus and the cross

## 4. God's love for the world

1. Escaping judgment

2. Gaining eternal life

# Gospel and Prayer Groups Study

1. What are the hallmarks of God's community should we see in our group?

## Read 1 Thess 1:2-10

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. List the things Paul gives thanks for about the Thessalonian's.
2. What is the sign of faith according to Paul?
3. What role did Paul and the missionary team play in shaping the Thessalonian's church?
4. What impact did their community have on others?
5. What made them into this community?

### Watch the video (provided to your leader) as a group

2. What aspects of the video presentation do you agree with? Do you think these are also found in the Thessalonian model?

Our Gospel and Prayer (GaP) groups will exist for 4 main reasons (in order of priority):

1. Remind and encourage members to trust and live in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ as found in his word (the Bible);
2. Encourage and practise prayer shaped by the gospel;
3. Enact pastoral care shaped by the gospel; and
4. To multiply.

3. There are good things that stop us from doing the great things of church life. Do you agree?

4. What are the 'great' things we should focus on?

5. What 'good' things might your group need to relinquish in order to not be distracted from the 'great' things?

## Prayer

1. Pray God would help your group be shaped by the gospel and its priorities.
2. Pray your group might grow numerically as new people join our church community.

## 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 3:2-3](#)  
Tuesday - [John 3:16-18](#)  
Wednesday - [John 3:30](#)  
Thursday - [John 3:35](#)  
Friday - [John 3:36](#)

## Notices

### Bales Park

After the 9:45 service on Sunday the 13th of March, there will be a picnic at Bales Park. We will hang out together, have food, play games and have fun. It will be a time to catch up with old friends and an opportunity to meet newer members of St Stephens's. We have also invited people connected to our church through 'Playtime'. People new to church or exploring Christianity look for a sense of belonging and community. This gathering is a chance for us to build deeper connections. Come along and help us make people feel more welcome. Say hi to someone you don't know.



**When:** Sunday, 23 March

**Time:** After 9:45 Service

**Where:** Bales Park, Willoughby

**Bring** - a Picnic blanket, something to eat, games to play.



### SRE at Willoughby Public

Did you know we teach 250 kids about Jesus at Willoughby Public school?

SRE (Special Religious Education) started back this week! Praise God that we were able to be back in classrooms after a long break! It was heartening to see students and

once again share the good news of Jesus with them. This semester we are looking at the Old Testament kings and how they point us toward our need for a perfect King – Jesus! Please pray for our new and returning SRE Leaders that they would be able to teach faithfully and that many students would come to know Jesus.

## **Half Past Six is going to KYCK**

KYCK is a conference in Katoomba for high schoolers. It is an opportunity to get away together as a community and explore the difference Jesus makes. We will spend time listening to great bible talks, worshiping, and building friendships. This year we will be looking at the book of Philippians and the JOY following Jesus brings. [More information.](#)

When: 8-10th April 2022, Who: Yr 7-12, Where: Katoomba  
Cost: \$160

## **Newish morning tea**

We have organised morning tea for people who have become a part of St. Stephen's in the last twelve months (newish). Newish morning tea will be at 11am in the Church office. It is an opportunity for you to meet the staff team, ask your questions about how St Stephen's works and hear more about our vision and mission. For more information, reach out to Jill Chilton after service. There is no formal registration process. So, please do not hesitate to attend the event even if you decide last minute.

## **Update from Alpha.**

Thirteen guests, and some St. Stephen's regulars, get together for the Alpha Course on Wednesday nights. At Alpha, we explore and ask questions about the gospel in a judgment-free space. We looked at the historical evidence for Jesus and his resurrection in the first week. This week we looked at the significance of Jesus' death. The aim of these interactions is to help our friends ask questions and understand the Christian faith. We pray that these relationships will bring people to faith. Many of our guests said they enjoyed the videos, discussions, and food. As a church, can we pray for them? Pray that the work done at St. Stephen's helps them to know and trust in Jesus.

## **NCLS Survey Coming Up**

Next Sunday, we will be holding our NCLS (National Church Life) Survey in church. It's a great chance to reflect on our church life, hopes and culture. We'd love it if you could make a concerted effort to be here and participate in the survey.

## What's Coming Up

Sunday 27th	PTC Course Week 3 Newish Morning Tea - Church Office 11am - Email - <a href="mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au">jill@st-stephens.com.au</a> for information
Monday 28th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532 — March —
Tuesday 1st	Playtime - <a href="#">More Info</a>
Wednesday 2nd	Alpha Course 2022
Friday 4th	Half Past Six. (Our Youth Group for Yrs 5-10
Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park after 9:45am Church.

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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