

This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 6

Sunday 6 March 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^{AM}
SERVICE:**

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 4:1-26](#)
(Bible - p.1065)
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Song
- NCLS Survey
- 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 hope you find your time with us deeply formative. We have a longing to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. This means we know there is much change that needs to happen in us. It also means we have hope that God is always at work to change his people. We hope you experience that change too as a result of your time with us. Let us know how you found today's service by using the Connect Card (via the QR Code).



Today we will spend a significant amount of time filling in the National Church Life Survey. It is an unusual thing to do at our church – surveys isn't something Jesus told his people to do when they gather! However, it's a great way to help us see where our church life needs to improve and where it is healthy. Thank you for taking the time to do the survey and share your thoughts.

As we spend time also reflecting on the Bible and the great events of Jesus's life we hope you are encouraged to personally encounter him.



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.

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
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

The hole in our hearts | [John 4:1-26](#) (Bible - p.1065)

1. What we need & where we go for it

2. Who really has it

3. Why this offer is better

Gospel and Prayer Groups Questions

1. Which of the following do you need most in life at present?
 - a. Relief from the challenges of life
 - b. Connection with others
 - c. Assurance about the future

Read John 4:1-26

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Why is Jesus at the well?
2. Why is the woman at the well?
3. What does Jesus offer?
4. What is the difference between Jews and Samaritans? What are they fighting about?
5. How can the woman receive what Jesus offers?

2. How does Jesus meet our needs in better ways?

3. Consider our responses to Question 1. What would result if we believed the answer to the previous question?

4. Give some reasons for why we struggle to believe in Jesus's offer.
5. What can your group do to help you receive what Jesus offers on a daily basis?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Why might a group that focuses on spiritual growth be better than a group which focuses on integrating people / welcoming people?

Prayer

1. Pray God would help you to remember the sufficiency of Jesus in times of need this week.
2. Pray God would give his Spirit to those who do not know Jesus and draw them into a satisfying relationship with him. Name someone who needs this prayer when you pray.

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 4:27-29](#)

Tuesday - [John 4:34](#)

Wednesday - [John 4:39-42](#)

Thursday - [John 4:47-53](#)

Friday - [John 5:5-9](#)

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Groups

Last week we introduced a change to our midweek groups. Previously they were known as 'Connect Groups'. We have now changed them to "Gospel and Prayer Groups". This can feel like a rebadging exercise that we embark on every few years. Our hope is that this is far more than that. We want our Gospel and Prayer Groups to be far more than a

place to meet, welcome and integrate people. We want our groups to be places where people grow in their spiritual maturity – where their lives are transformed. Spiritual growth only comes when we constantly are reminded of the good news of Jesus and constantly encouraged to trust in that news. For this reason, we want our groups to be places where the Gospel (good news) is front and centre. A group that is shaped by the gospel will always be welcoming but it will be far more than that too. It will be transformative!



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is going to be held on Monday 28 March in the church at 7:30pm. We would like to encourage members of our church to attend. Presentations about the future of our church, the financial position of our church and the plans for our property will be made. We will also elect office bearers for key roles. If you are open to standing for parish council, as a warden or as nominators would you please inform Prash or one of the wardens? (Michelle Chase, Allan Saxby or Rob Cooper)

Newish Morning tea - Update

Twelve people attended Newish morning tea last Sunday. We had a great time with lots of questions and great conversations. Not to mention some great food. For those who were unable to attend this time, there will be another opportunity next month. Join us for a special cuppa after church on the 27th of March in the church office. There will be more opportunities throughout the year to meet staff, ask questions and understand our vision and mission.

Bales Park next week!

Well, we have had lots of new people join our church in the last 18 months! This is super exciting and as a church, we want to connect with them and help them to feel like they belong. One way we can do this is by joining us at Bales Park on Sunday the 13th of March after the 9:45 service. 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 and open doors to faith in Jesus. So whether you are newish or have been around for ages this is a chance to meet someone you don't know and be encouraged.

Square One Camp

Youthworks Square One is a weekend camp for children in Years 3 - 6. It's a chance for kids to come away with their church friends to learn from the bible, develop friendships and have fun! This year we are looking at 'The cross, the tomb & me'. Kids will be accompanied by St Stephen's leaders. It will be a weekend your kids will never forget, and will help them grow in their devotion to God's word.



When: Friday, 3 June to Sunday, 5 June
Where: Port Hacking at the Youthworks site
Who: Year 3-6 and their leaders



Preparing for Easter

Easter is just around the corner. We're planning again to invite the community to come hear the world-changing and life-changing news of Jesus's death and resurrection. We're particularly aiming to reach those in our community who have never set foot in a church building before but are open to experiencing Easter with us. To do

that we need as many people to help with letterbox dropping. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

What's Coming Up

Sunday 6th	NCLS Survey during Church service. PTC Course Week 4
Monday 7th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join
Tuesday 8th	Playtime - More Info
Wednesday 9th	Alpha Course 2022
Friday 11th	Half Past Six. (Our Youth Group for Yrs 5-10)
Saturday 12th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park after 9:45am Church.

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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