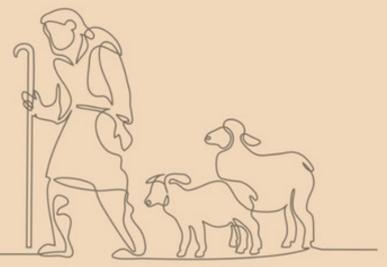


This is God



The life of Jesus according to John's Gospel

Wk 7

Sunday 13 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
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[John 5:19-47](#)
(Bible - p.1068)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Communion
- 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. You have chosen the best place to be this Sunday! We think Church is a great place to meet people but more importantly to hear God's words to us and be challenged to respond. If you have reflections or would like to respond to anything that happened in the service feel free to use the QR Code.



These past weeks we have been looking at the words of the apostle John. He met Jesus, lived and travelled with him for over 3 years and became a close friend before Jesus's death, resurrection and then ascension. He was so close to Jesus that he ended up looking after Mary (Jesus's mother) after Jesus ascended. This history makes John's account of Jesus's life even more amazing. John writes his account so that we might believe Jesus is God. Imagine writing an account of your best friend so that people might believe they were God. No best friend is that good! Except for Jesus.

The challenge of accepting that Jesus is God is far more than intellectual. It challenges our life, our priorities, our decisions.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Prayers for those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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 and 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 surprising truth about God | Passage: John 5:19–47

1. Jesus is God

What this means

Why we believe it

2. Jesus should be heard

Honour by hearing

Human glory rather than God's glory

3. God is Jesus

A surprising truth

A surprising option

Gospel and Prayer Group Questions

1. On what basis do people come up with their understanding of God?
2. Why is Christianity's understanding of God unique to any other religion?

Read John 5:19-47

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. How does Jesus describe his relationship to the Father?
2. How does Jesus describe the Father's relationship to the Son?
3. What does Jesus's authority allow him to do?
4. What testifies to the truth of Jesus's claims?
5. What reasons does Jesus give for the Jewish leaders rejecting his claim?

2. How can we inadvertently treat Jesus as simply a teacher?

3. What impact would a belief that 'Jesus is God' have on your life?

4. Why might it be both challenging and comforting to know that God is 'Jesus the Nazarene'.

5. Where in your life do you need to remember:

I. Jesus is God (i.e. obey the call)

II. God is Jesus (i.e. draw on his mercy and grace)



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. How can your group hinder the group's prayer life at times?
2. What ways can your group shape your prayer life around who God is and what he has done (gospel shaped prayers)?

Prayer

1. Pray God would shape your desires around his and you would obey his word.
2. Pray God might show a friend the surprising truth of who he (God) is.

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 5:22-23](#)

Tuesday - [John 5:25](#)

Wednesday - [John 5:36](#)

Thursday - [John 6:14-15](#)

Friday - [John 6:18-21](#)

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Groups

Prayer is the most extraordinary activity. From a distance, it seems strange to talk to a person who is not in the room and who you have never seen. Yet most people revert to it when in need. God wants his people to pray. He wants our prayers to be shaped by who he is and what he has done. Not simply shaped by our latest need or desire.



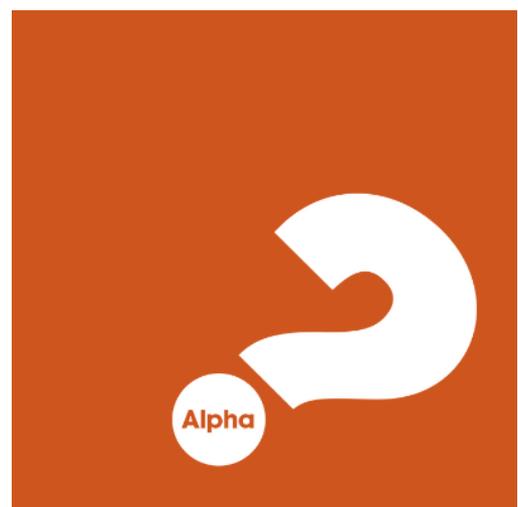
He wants us to prayer gospel-shaped prayers. Because of how strange prayer is – we need each other’s help. Our Gospel and Prayer Groups are the place to grow our prayer life. This is one of the main reasons they exist.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is on Monday 28 March at 7:30pm in the Church. We would like to see all St Stephen’s members at the AGM to hear reports on the life of our church, the financial position, the plans for our property and to elect office bearers for the coming year. If you would like to stand for one of our positions please contact Prash or the Wardens.

Alpha Update

Despite the recent wet weather, we’ve had a group come every Wednesday night eager to explore the Christian faith and what it means to follow Jesus. Last week we discussed the topic of faith and one guest realised that faith in Jesus is not “blind” but can be based on solid evidence. He is determined to explore more seriously this evidence! There are two more weeks of Alpha before we have an Alpha Retreat in April. Please be praying for them that they would come to have life in Christ.



Run Up to Easter

Our prayer this Easter is that people who have never stepped foot in a church building before would come and engage with the beautiful Easter story of Jesus's death and resurrection that is at the heart of what we believe. On top of our family-friendly Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, we are also holding a special event on Thursday night called An Easter Walkthrough. This is in partnership with EXALT, a Christian Creatives organisation managed by our very own David Krebs. More details to come in the following weeks, but we hope that this will help people engage with the Easter story in a creative and accessible way! Get ready also for a letterbox drop in month ahead and please be praying for who you could invite.



REACH commissioning service - 20th March @ 2:30pm

REACH is a partnership between churches in the Willoughby and Chatswood area to provide quality and biblically faithful SRE teaching in our local schools. REACH seeks to reflect the love and welcome of Jesus, clarify the claims of the Christian faith and encourage students to consider a biblical worldview. It is an important ministry that helps young people be brought to faith and grows them in their devotion to God's word. Show your support by joining us at the commissioning service of the new teacher Mark Baines here at St Stephen's. Date 20th March. Time 2:30.

Bales Park Picnic - Update!

We are having a picnic at Bales park after the 9:45 service this Sunday. Although the beginning of the week has been wet and rainy the forecast is meant to improve. We are, therefore, still planning to go ahead. If on the day it is raining or the ground is still wet we will postpone the picnic to the following week (20th March). Please pray that the rain would stop and we would be able to meet!



What's Coming Up

Sunday 13th	Picnic at Bales Park after 9:45am Church. (weather permitting) PTC Course Week 5 (Starting @ 3:30pm)
Monday 14th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join
Tuesday 15th	Playtime - More Info
Friday 18th	Half Past Six (Our Youth Group for Yrs 5-10)
Saturday 19th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Sunday 20th	Easter Letterbox Drop REACH Commissioning service @ 2:30pm
Monday 28th	Annual General Meeting - 7:30pm in the church

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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