

Your life's work ...

Work, rest & retirement - May 2022

Wk 1

Sunday 1 May 2022

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.

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

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Gen. 2:4-23](#)
(Bible - p.2)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Holy 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. If you are joining us for the 1st time, or perhaps you are joining us after coming to one of our Easter events - we're thrilled to have you! We think there is no better place to be than church on a Sunday. Here you will find a message of love and grace and forgiveness in spite of the world's failings and our failings.

We would love to hear from you - would you take a moment to scan the QR Code and let us know you were here and how you found the service? There are also opportunities to respond to various things raised in this booklet and throughout the service via the QR Code.



Today we start five weeks reflecting on the place, purpose and shape of work and rest in our lives. No topic is more relevant to our daily lives. Interestingly, the Bible has much to say, which shapes and challenges how we think about this topic. We hope you find a renewed fervour for life with Jesus at the centre. Enjoy your time with us today!



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

The Start of Work | Passage: [Gen. 2:4-23](#) (p.2)

1. The Goodness of Work

2. The Responsibility of Work

3. The Challenge of Work

4. The Ideal worker

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. On a spectrum from blessing to curse, where would you place your primary work area? If your work is mainly at home would you consider that work more a blessing or a curse? If you work primarily in a paid role, where would you place that?

Read Gen. 2:4-23

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Who is the primary worker in this account? What do they do?
 2. List the things this worker produces?
 3. What work is Adam given?
 4. How is God gracious to Adam in the account of Gen. 2?
 5. How does Adam's work relate to God's work?
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2. What does Adam's role tell us about the nature of work in God's eyes?
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3. How does sin affect the work that Adam is given?
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4. How does sin impact our work?

Read Luke 10:19-20

5. What warning does Jesus offer even those who work for him? Where does he encourage them to look instead?
6. What 'names' do we get from God if we accept and believe the gospel? (see 1 John 3:1, John 15:15)
7. How can an eye to the name God has given us help us work better in our daily lives?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. What did you find encouraging?
2. Pray for a friend you can bring to Hope Explored.

Prayer

1. Give thanks for the true identity God offers us in the Gospel
2. Identify and pray for times when our desire for recognition might impede our ability to work well this week.

Read the Bible with us!

1. How does this passage shape my thinking about work?
2. How can I get my thinking wrong? What do we learn about Jesus?
3. How can God's grace reshape my attitude to work today?

Monday - [Gen 2:15 & 19](#)

Tuesday - [Gen 3:2-5 & 17](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 10:19-20](#)

Thursday - [John 1:9-10](#)

Friday - [John 19:41-42](#)

Notices

Monday Prayer Meetings

This Monday morning at 8:45am we restart our weekly prayer meetings on Zoom (see link on the back). Each week we meet on Zoom to pray. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to pray. Some come every week, others come when they can. We pray for a ½-hour and then sign off. Those who join find this is one of the best ways to start the week. We are able to turn our hearts and minds and problems to God. He reframes our week and its coming challenges. We would love to have you join us this Monday or in the future - simply use the link on the back.



What is Playtime?

Playtime at St Stephen's is a playgroup for 0 to 5-year-old children and their carers. It runs on Tuesday mornings (school terms), 9:30-11:30am. Playtime plays an important role in our mission priority - Bringing Friends to Faith. Over the last year, the Playtime team has been thinking hard about how to make sure everything we do at Playtime will help us in our mission.

In the past, we have felt like we are good at making friends with the people at Playtime but have struggled to see people come to faith.

Prayer points for Playtime: (1) Pray for people who you can bring to Playtime. (2) Pray that the people who attend to Playtime this term come to know Jesus!

Hope Explored - Starts next week

At St Stephen's, we always have people exploring the Christian faith with us. We think the best way to do this is in a place where you can be honest and comfortable to ask your questions, share your thoughts and hear what others say. That's what our upcoming Wednesday night course, Hope Explored is all about. We'll go for four weeks, starting Wednesday 4 May, 7-9pm, food provided. If you don't know whether you can come for all four nights, just come to the first night and check it out! [Register](#)



Doing Evangelism together - Training Opportunities

Have you ever wondered why it's so hard to bring your friends to church or talk to them about Jesus? Evangelism can be so hard—we want our friends to share in the eternal hope we have in Jesus, but sometimes they often don't want to hear about it.

In June, we're offering three opportunities to be equipped and encouraged in bringing our friends to faith. On Saturday 4 June, we're going to a Sydney-wide conference called Gossiping the Gospel held at St Anne's Ryde. This is a great chance to think about evangelism with brothers and sisters from other churches.



Conference
Saturday,
4 June 2022

**Gossiping
the Gospel**
in your community

Training nights
Wed 8 June and Wed 15 June.
Presenter - David Robertson
7pm to 9pm
Food Provided.

On Wednesday 8 and 15 June, from 7-9pm in our Chapel Hall, David Robertson will be helping us think about why we find it so hard to bring our friends to church and help us how to better do this both practically and theologically. Register for [Evangelism Training](#)

Newish Morning Tea



Ever started a new job, been shown to your desk and then left to fend for yourself? You soon realise every workplace – even when doing similar jobs – has different ways of operating. Church can sometimes feel the same. We aim to make church as accessible to you, but we know sometimes there are still things which you might not know about or would simply like more information on.

Newish Morning Teas are an easy space where you hear an outline of our church's life & structures and work out how best to find your home here. They run once a month for ½ an hour after church. The food and company are great too!

Our next Newish is on Sunday 29th. Speak to Jill for more details or use the QR code to register interest.

What's Coming Up

– May –

Monday 2nd	Weekly Prayer Meeting - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 3rd	Playtime Starts for Term 2 - 9:30am to 11:30am
Wednesday 4th	Hope Explored Course 7pm -9pm - Register
Friday 6th	Half Past Six starts for Term 2
Saturday 7th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532 David and Pippie's Wedding - Open invitation
Sunday 29th	Newish Morning Tea

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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