



Wk 2

Sunday 12 June 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
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Genesis 3:1-24](#)
(Bible p.3)
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to our 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! Great to have you with us. We think there is no better place to be on Sunday than here. We would love to hear about your experience at church today. Let us know via the QR Code.

Today we continue in our series on the 1st book of the Bible – Genesis. As we were reminded last week – it's a book designed to lay down the foundations for the key questions of “who is God” and “who am I”. These are questions we are all asking. Perhaps the God question is less prevalent, but it always appears in times of crisis and uncertainty – we are built to find an answer to that question. This, in part, is why we think church is the best place to be on Sunday. We want to give you the chance to explore the big questions.

Apart from our Sunday services, there is much that makes up the life of St Stephen's. Do take some time and check out the various great things happening. We would love to have you at them – you can respond using the QR Code.



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.

A Prayer of Confession

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.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

The 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 for ever. Amen.

Sermon Notes

Where our mess came from | Passage: [Genesis 3:1-24](#)

We all know our world is broken

1. The Temptation (vv. 1-5)
 - a. Questioning God's Word and goodness

 - b. The lie that sounds like a truth

2. The Transgression (vv. 6-8)
 - a. Knowing good and evil

 - b. Shame and hiding

3. The Judgment (vv. 9-24)
 - a. God calls them

 - b. The curses

 - c. God's grace and undeserved hope

We need to feel the weight of our sin to appreciate the gospel.

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. "I don't think Christians should talk too much about sin, guilt and judgment because it'll turn people off Christianity." Discuss what you think about this statement.

Read Genesis 3

Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. Break up the story into shorter 'episodes'.
 2. Describe the different stages of Eve's temptation by the serpent
 3. What do you think Adam's mistake was in the incident? (vv. 1, 6, 17)
 4. How do the curses given to man and woman affect the tasks God had originally given them to do? (Gen. 1:26, 2:15; 2:22-25)
2. How do you think the story helps us break down what's going on in our hearts when we disobey God?
3. Sin entered the world (Gen. 3) not by a violent act like murder. It came about by a seemingly harmless offence of eating the wrong fruit. What do you think God is telling us about sin by the Gen. 3 story?

4. Try to summarise what sin is in no more than five words.
5. How do we see glimpses of God's grace in Genesis 3? How does understanding the seriousness of Adam and Eve's sin makes God look even more gracious?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Who can you pray for to come to the Dumpling Making night to hear about Jesus?
2. What in your own heart is a barrier stopping you from inviting people to church? Commit this to God in prayer.

Prayer

1. Spend time (potentially in pairs) confessing our sin and asking God for forgiveness.
2. Ask God to help us to see sin and grace rightly.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does this passage say about me?
3. How does this correct what the world says about me and about God?

Monday - [Genesis 4](#)
Tuesday - [Psalm 14](#)
Wednesday - [Luke 3:23-4:13](#)
Thursday - [Romans 5:12-21](#)
Friday - [Ephesian 2:1-10](#)

Notices

Membership Course

On June 26 we are running a Membership Course. It is a new component of our church and differs from Newish Morning Teas. Newish is an opportunity for all those who are new or newish to come and meet the staff, hear about the basic workings of our church, and start a conversation about how they will fit into the life of St Stephen's.



The Membership Course is a much more in-depth time (2.5 hrs and lunch) that aims to articulate the core values, purpose and focus of our church. While 'membership' in the Anglican Church is understood in terms of Baptism and Confirmation, this course will help people understand what it looks like, in addition, to being a member of St Stephen's. The course will give people a chance to take significant next steps which draw them deeper into our community and our overall vision and mission. This course is open to all and especially to those who have joined our church more recently. Our hope is all people will eventually go through the content of the course and so give us a much more clear, cohesive and common sense of our church.

Connect Cards

You might have noticed we are taking time in each service to fill in the connect card. We do this for a few reasons: firstly, we love hearing from new people and visitors – your opinion of our time together is valuable. Secondly, we want our regulars to take a moment and respond to what has been said and done in church – to apply what they've heard or to take the next step. Thirdly, we want to provide a chance for everyone to seek prayer. Your prayer points are kept confidential, and only the staff see them. We encourage everyone to use the connect cards.



Update from Gossiping the Gospel

A bunch of us went away to the Gossiping the Gospel conference. We were encouraged by other Christians from churches across Sydney to keep faithfully speaking the life-changing gospel of Jesus wherever God has placed us. A big takeaway one of us had was that all Christians are “ambassadors of Christ” (2 Cor 5:20) and that you can’t be a good ambassador if you don’t speak: we need to speak about our Lord Jesus! We also need to pray, because only God can shine the light of the gospel into the hearts of those who are spiritually blind (2 Cor 4:4).

Evangelism Training Nights

We had our first of two evangelism training nights with David Robertson this week. We thought hard about the usual objections we encounter when we try to invite our friends to church. One takeaway was that actually, people might be more receptive to our invitations than we think. This coming Wednesday night we’ll think about why people do come to church and my hope is that we’ll come out being reminded how we can have great confidence in the gospel.



Upcoming outreach events

As part of our priority to **bring friends to faith**, we want to run public events once where we can share Jesus with our friends, family and neighbours. We’ve already done this with the Lunar New Year Dinner and also our Easter events. The goal of these events is to invite as many people as we can so that we can **share Jesus** with them. For those who then want to explore the Christian faith further, we can help them towards a gospel course like Alpha or Hope Explored. Our next event is a Dumpling Making Night on Friday 12 August. Save the date! More details to come...



What's Coming Up

Monday 13th	Public Holiday - No Prayer Meeting
Tuesday 14th	Playtime - Week 7
Wednesday 15th	Evangelism Training Night 2
Thursday 16th	Encounter - Chapel Hall - 10am - 1pm
Friday 17th	Half Past Six.
Saturday 18th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Sunday 26th	Membership Course - 1pm to 4pm with lunch

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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