

Wk 5

Sunday 9 June 2024

*Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.*

## TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Luke 15:11-32  
(page 1048)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.  
BSB: 062 272  
Account Number:  
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to have you with us! We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday than church. We would love to hear how you found church. Could you take a moment and let us know via the QR Code or the Connect Card inside?



Today brings our series on Sexuality & Gender to a conclusion. Our society makes discussions about this topic challenging. While we are in some ways obsessed with it, so much of our conversation is filled with uncertainty and shame. We wanted this series to provide food for thought, comfort and guidance from the eternal words of God in the Bible.

Do you have more questions or reservations about the Bible's view? We would love to hear them - use the Connect Card or come to our question time at 6pm.

### Next Steps

**Are you new?** We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next Newish Morning Tea on 23 June. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

**Been regularly coming?** If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next Belonging Course which runs on 8 September from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out - they'd love to chat.

# 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

Most merciful God,  
we humbly admit that we need your help.  
We confess that we have wandered from your way:  
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.  
You alone can save us.  
Have mercy on us:  
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.  
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit  
that we may live as disciples of Christ.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

## 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 forever  
Amen.

# Sermon Notes

## Same-sex Attraction & the Story of God | Luke 15:11-32

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

### 1. Flipping the Script

#### Dramatic Change

#### 4 Key Influences

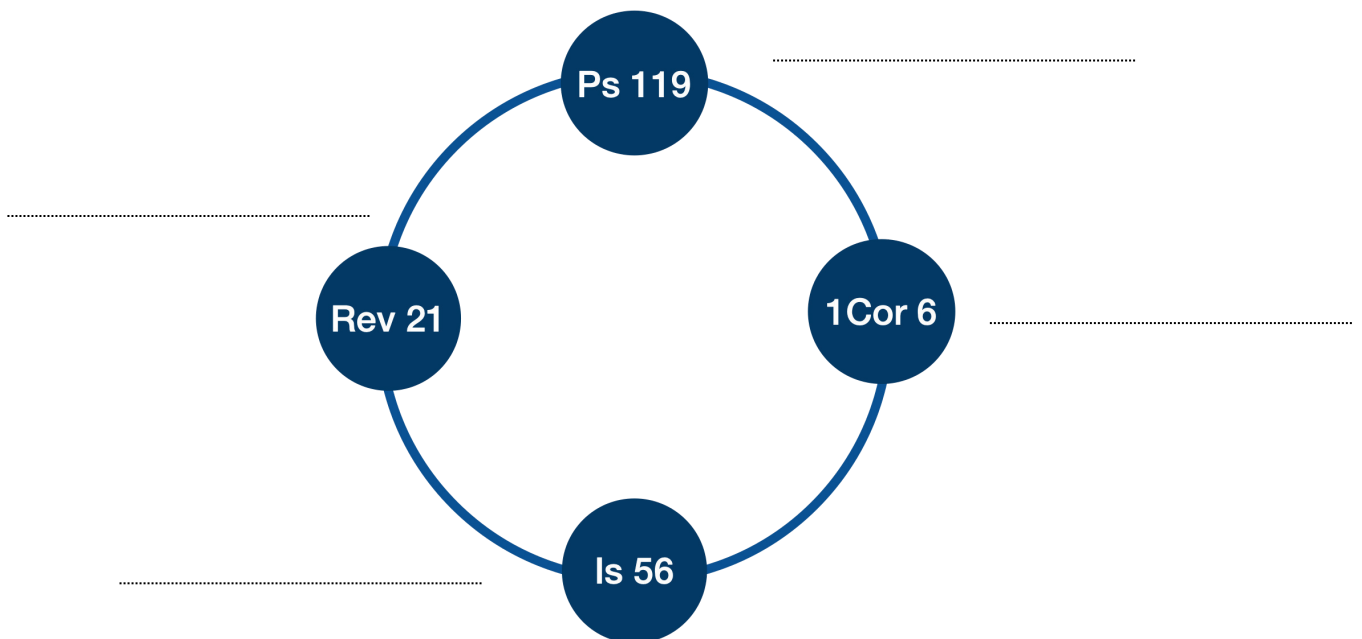
Individual Expressivism

Desire driving identity

Unrestrained Sexuality

Personal Fulfilment

### 2. God's Framework



After that, I turned to the Bible alone and went through every verse, every chapter, every page of Scripture looking for biblical justification for homosexuality. I couldn't find any. I was at a turning point, and a decision had to be made. Either abandon God to live as a homosexual - by allowing my feelings and sexual passions to dictate who I was. Or abandon homosexuality - by liberating myself from my feelings - and live as a follower of Jesus Christ

- Christopher Yuan, Out of a Far Country

### 3. God's Story

#### The Younger Son



Luke 15:13-14



Luke 15:17-20

#### The Older Son

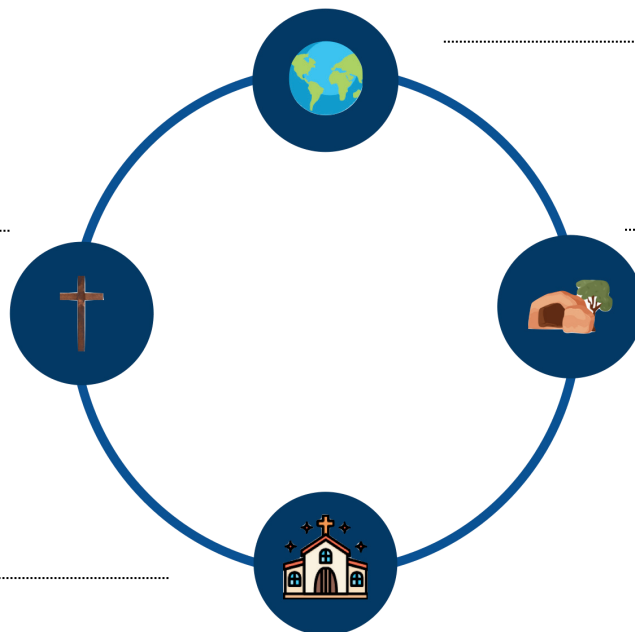


Luke 15:28-29

#### The Father



Luke 15:20



# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What societal influences are part of our conversation about same-sex relationships? Do you resonate with some/any of these ways of thinking? [You may want to reflect on Sunday's sermon or the past weeks in the series].

2. The Bible's Response: Consider the verses and fill in the Biblical picture of sexuality, gender & relationships.

Psalm 119:9 (Week 1)  Where do we turn for true and ageless wisdom?	1 Cor 6:15 (Week 2)  How do we think about our physical bodies/biological gender?
1 Cor 7:34 & Isaiah 56:4-5 (Week 3)  Why is sexual affection not necessary for joy?	Rev. 21:2 & Eph 5:32 (Week 4)  What is the true and ultimate purpose of marriage?

3. Watch this testimony. What strikes you about it? What is compelling?



## Read Luke 15:11-32

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What mistakes does the younger son make?
- B. How does the younger son find redemption?
- C. What mistakes does the older son make?
- D. Why do these mistakes stop the older son from finding redemption?
- E. What does the Father do?

4. Where, in issues of sexuality, gender and relationships, do you run the risk of being like:

- a. The younger son; or
- b. The older son?

5. How are you encouraged to respond? What does this look like?



### GaP Group Reflection

Watch this video and consider the following questions:



1. What encouraged you about what Pippie and Gordon shared?
2. Spend some time praying for scripture and Friday kids
3. Consider giving to the RIGS fund (you can contact Niall (treasurer))

## Prayer Time

- A. Reflect on your answers to question 4. Confess your sin to the group and the Lord. Seek his forgiveness.
- B. Have you felt great thankfulness for the Father's love to you? Spend time giving thanks for that.

## Read the Bible with us!

- i. What promise/encouragement is offered in this passage?
- ii. How will this shape you this week?
- iii. Ask God to bring about a change in you as a response of thanksgiving for his promises.

Monday - [John 4:21-24](#)

Tuesday - [1 Corinthians 15:42-44](#)

Wednesday - [Isaiah 56:3-8](#)

Thursday - [Revelations 21:1-4](#)

Friday - [Luke 15:22-24](#)

# Notices

## Evangelism Training | Wednesday nights, 7-9pm

Sign up online at [st-stephens.com.au/winter](http://st-stephens.com.au/winter)



The poster features a dark background with a cityscape. The title 'Evangelism Training' is split across two columns. The left column says 'Wednesdays 7-9pm' and lists two dates: '19 June: When evangelism feels hard and discouraging' and '26 June: Bringing our sub-continental neighbours to Christ'. The right column says 'Dinner \$10' and includes two circular portraits of speakers: Gordon Luk and Clive Butjens.

## Square One Report

Last weekend we took 5 kids away on Square one camp. Despite the heavy rain we had a wonderful time learning that God freeing Israel from slavery in Egypt is the second best rescue story (after Jesus rescuing us). We spent time in God's word, playing games, building forts, eating yummy food and making new friends. One camper said 'It was the best weekend of my life'.



## Funding for SRE

Did you know one of the girls who went away on camp with us to Square One was invited through SRE? The place she heard about Jesus is our regular Wednesday SRE class. Jesus is so compelling she asked her parents to send her to camp where she heard about God's great rescue! SRE gives us the



opportunity to reach people who would not hear about Jesus. How amazing! This year we are \$5,000 short of our budget for SRE ministry. If you would like to give a tax-deductible gift to support SRE please contact our

treasurer [nhenderson007@gmail.com](mailto:nhenderson007@gmail.com). These gifts can be deductions when you submit your Tax Return, and they allow us to invest more in this important area of ministry.

# What's Coming Up

14 June	Friday Kids Big Week Magic Show
17 June	Emu Music Workshop
19 & 26 June	Evangelism Training
20 June	Encounter for Seniors
23 June	Newish Morning Tea

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/winter](http://st-stephens.com.au/winter)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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