

# WEALTH & POSSESSIONS



Wk 3

**Sunday 14 May 2023**

## TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Song
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Exod 16:1-20 (p. 71)  
& 1 Tim 6:6-19  
(p. 1195)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

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

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*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.*

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad you have joined us today. There are many good things we can do on a Sunday but the one great thing we can do is meet with God's people.

Church is a profound privilege and it's our pleasure to share it with you! Would you please take a moment and complete the QR Code Connect Card or the hard copy in this booklet. We would love to hear from you. You can share feedback, prayer requests or respond to things said in the service.



Today we continue looking at the challenging topic of our wealth and possessions. We're talking about a topic many do not like talking about. We don't do it to be obnoxious. We talk about wealth and possessions because we think God has a special design for them. He made them, generously gave them to us for a purpose and now we should respond.

As we think about this topic we hope you will see that knowing the God of the Bible is crucial for dealing well with our wealth and possessions. He makes the path straight and the way clear.



**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

Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

## 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

**Our Daily Bread | Exodus 16:1-20 & 1 Timothy 6:6-19**

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

## 1. Meeting our daily needs

## 2. Dealing with the future

Savings

Not a solution

## 3. Foundations of rich generosity

a. Presence

b. Passion

c. Power

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What parts of your life are you discontent with? Why?

## Read Exodus 16:1-20

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. Why are the Israelites grumbling?
- B. Where are they? Where have they come from? How did they get there?
- C. What is God's response to them? What is God trying to achieve?
- D. What did Moses say about their grumbling?
- E. What did God do for them? How did they respond?

2. What might be hard about limiting our prayers to having only our daily needs met? How comfortable are you to pray "Give us this day our daily bread?" in the Lord's Prayer? Why might we find it hard?

*"It is seldom the present and the actual that is intolerable" - C.S. Lewis*

3. Is there freedom that comes with this kind of contentment? Why? Why not?

## Read 1 Tim 6:6-16

4. Why is contentment important to us?
5. List the different things we are told about God in this. Get someone to write them down.
6. Having listed the characteristics of God, consider how they might help us to trust God to meet our daily need and live with contentment?



### GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. Who would you like to bring to Conversations about Hope?
- ii. Spend time praying for our friends and the event.

## Prayer

“Kind Heavenly Father, thank you that though you are so powerful you choose to use your power for our benefit. Help us to trust you with our future and live more simply. May our simpler lives create space for greater generosity. Amen.”

## Read the Bible with us!

1. Reflect on what the passage is saying our contentment and who God is.
2. Pray for an area of your life where you need to be content.

Monday – [Exodus 16:1-20](#)

Tuesday – [1 Tim 6:6-19](#)

Wednesday – [Heb 13:5](#)

Thursday – [Phil 4:11-13](#)

Friday – [Prov 30:7-9](#)

# Notices

## Conversations about Hope

**Conversations about Hope is this Wednesday night, 17 May at Willoughby Hotel from 7-9pm.**

This is an event for anyone! You don't need to have any experience with church or Christianity to come along. Come along and grab a drink or meal and join in the conversations about hope. You can simply listen to the panelists or you can ask your own questions too. Bring your friends, neighbours and family!

Register at [st-stephens.com.au/autumn](http://st-stephens.com.au/autumn) to let us know you're coming.



### **AMY BROWN**

Former CEO of Investment NSW and Secretary of Enterprise, Investment and Trade



### **ROGER MONTGOMERY**

Founder of Montgomery Investment Management, author, and regular contributor on ABC's The Business and The Weekend Australian



### **IAN HAMMOND**

Chairman of Mission Australia and Non-executive Director of Suncorp Group, Perpetual Limited, Venues NSW and Chris O'Brien's Lifehouse, and former partner with PWC



### **VALERIE LING**

Director of the Centre for Effective Living, clinical psychologist and consultant in workplace well-being and burnout prevention

## GaP Groups

Throughout the week we run Gospel and Prayer Groups for our members. These are groups which meet to read and reflect on the Bible, pray together for God to work his purposes out in our lives and support each other as a response to God's grace to us. There are many groups through the week – some run in the day time, some run at night.

At St Stephen's we want the Gospel to shape us. We want to be people whose 1st cry to God is one shaped by his promises and character. GaP Groups are a great way for that to happen. They offer a great chance to be known more deeply, serve each other more meaningfully and grow spiritually. If you are not part of a group but would like to join one then please contact [Prash](#) who will meet with you to determine the best group to join.



## Parish Council

In our church a group of elected members form the Parish Council. The council meets every month to consider our finances, our property needs and to support the ministry team. The Parish Council is currently considering the redevelopment of the property and we hope to make a final decision on whether that project will proceed in coming weeks. Please pray for these servant hearted members. We are looking for members of the church who can help us with property management and finances. If this is a ministry you would like to be part of in future, please chat with Prash about the opportunities to hear more.

## Weekly Prayer Meetings

What is our church powered by? The prayers of God's people. Our first mission characteristic is to be people who pray big prayers shaped by the gospel. We need to pray if we want to see God work in and through us. We need to pray if we really believe the good news of Jesus which says only God can save.

Will you join us at one of our two weekly prayer meetings? We are trialling a new prayer meeting time of 1-1:30pm on Mondays. You can join us in person in the Chapel Hall or online (see back cover for details). Come join us in this ministry.

## RiGS Donations

Each year we run an amazing ministry at Willoughby Public School teaching Christian Scripture to students. Over 250 students attend Scripture. You can support this ministry in a number of ways. 1st – pray for the ministry and the students. 2nd – join the team of teachers and helpers. 3rd – financially support the ministry by giving.

We have the ability to receive up to \$6000 in tax deductible gifts for Scripture this year. If you are interested in giving to this, please contact our treasurer – Niall ([nhenderson007@gmail.com](mailto:nhenderson007@gmail.com)) for further details. Niall is away but will respond when he can.

## Serving in the Music Team

Music is a valuable part of our worship every Sunday. Thank you to our musicians who serve us each week. You enable us to praise God and for the gospel to be embedded deeper in our hearts. If you're newish to church, we hope you've enjoyed our music! What we cherish as a church is often best-expressed in the songs we sing. We'd love more musicians to join our music team. Do you have gifts in music and want to try it out? Come along to the music training session on Sunday 21 May after the 9:45am service and jam with the team.

## What's Coming Up

15 May	Prayer Meeting: Mondays 1pm on <a href="#">Zoom</a>
15 May	Parish Council Meeting
16 May	Playtime 9:30-11:30am
17 May	Conversations of Hope at Willoughby Hotel
18 May	Encounter for Seniors - 10am-1pm (morning tea & lunch included)
20 May	Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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