

JUNE-JULY 2023

GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 2

Sunday 11 June 2023

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 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Genesis 18:1-2 (p. 15), 16-33 (p. 16)
- Sermon
- Announcements & BCA Vision Spot
- Prayers
- 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 you have joined us today. There is no better place to be on a Sunday! We would love to hear how you found church today. Could you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card? You can access it via the QR code or the hard copy enclosed in this booklet. The card can be placed in the box near the exit.



Today we get the opportunity to hear from Paul Sampson. Paul is the head of Bush Church Australia. BCA helps find ministers to support and run local churches throughout rural Australia. It's a hugely valuable task. Living rurally means being content without many of the amenities we take for granted in the city. However, we don't think it should mean you have to live without the Gospel. The good news of Jesus is for every person. St Stephen's has a long partnership with BCA for this reason.

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 Sunday 25 June. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? Being part of a GaP Group is a great way to discuss today's message with others and pray for God's wisdom in your life. Fill in a Connect Card for more information.

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

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

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

Sweeping Away the Righteous | Genesis 18

Preacher: Paul Sampson

1. That's Not Fair

2. Justice Meets Wickedness

3. God's Solution

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Have you ever found yourself bargaining with God? What was the issue? As you reflect back – was it helpful?

Read Gen 18:16-33

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. Why does God tell Abraham what he will do?
- B. What has Sodom & Gomorrah done?
- C. How many times did Abraham question God?
- D. How does God respond each time?
- E. On what basis will God relent in his judgment?

2. God eventually does judge Sodom for their sin but he saves Lot and his family despite their reluctance. How is God's response in this chapter and chapter 19 different to what we might assume?

3. God is not threatened by our questions. Why do we question God and what is our aim?

4. How are we challenged to respond to God after considering his character?

5. Consider the life and ministry of Jesus. How is God's character reflected in Gen 18 seen more clearly in Jesus's life?

6. How can you bring your questions before God in a manner that reflects his character?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, there is much we do not understand in life. Thank you that you are both just and merciful. Help us to bring our questions to you and leave with confidence in your character and plans. Amen



GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. How have you experienced the care of others at St Stephen's?
- ii. How can your GaP Group express care for each other that is shaped by the Gospel story and promises?

Read the Bible with us!

1. What do we learn about God's character?
2. What do we learn about the people God has chosen?
3. Why is God's mercy necessary? Spend time giving thanks for God's mercy.

Monday - [Genesis 18:1-15](#)

Tuesday - [Genesis 18:16-33](#)

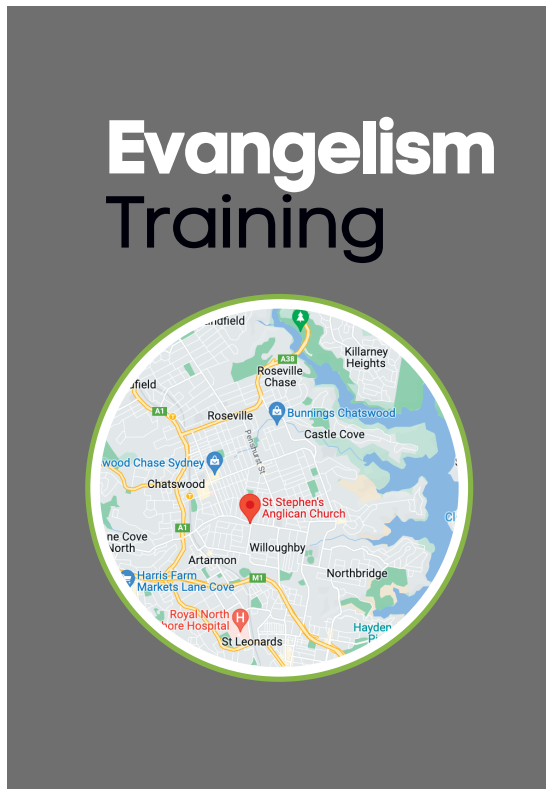
Wednesday - [Genesis 19:1-29](#)

Thursday - [Genesis 19:30-38](#)

Friday - [Genesis 20:1-18](#)

Notices

Evangelism Training Nights



Wednesday nights, 7-9pm

Dinner included: \$10



14 June: Sharing Jesus in everyday conversations

Kit Ng
Sydney Uni Evangelical Union



21 June: Sharing Jesus across cultures

Amelia Hohne
Anglicare





Join in this coming Wednesday and be equipped to share your faith. Register at st-stephens.com.au/winter

Serving Opportunities

One of the hallmarks of a Christian is their love for serving. Jesus said he did not “come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Serving is part of our spiritual DNA. If you would like to join a service team please fill in the connect card and let us know. There are great opportunities to serve on the Welcoming team and Music team at present.

If you indicate interest one of the staff team will reach out and give you more details which you can use to make an informed decision. If you do not serve we would love to welcome you in to this great part of our church life.



-  MORNING TEAS, SUPPER, FOOD HOSPITALITY
-  MUSIC TEAMS
-  SUNDAY SERVICE TEAMS
-  COMMUNITY CARE MINISTRIES

Reflections on Gospel Outreach Conference



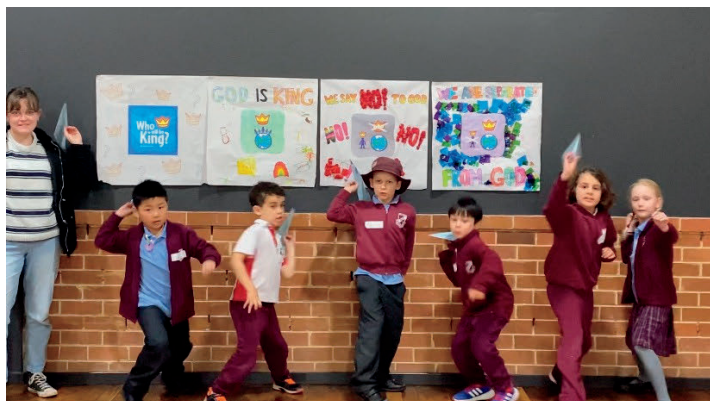
Fiona: “Our task is to present the beauty of Christ so that others will want Him, and present him to everyone around us. [I was also challenged personally] to not be discouraged by rejection and to never give up. The news we have to share is too good! On a practical level, giving more thought in how to ask questions that will draw out responses that lead to conversations about Jesus.”

Friday Kids

Friday Kids is an after school kids programs for those in Kindy to year 4. We started Friday Kids at the beginning of the year in order to help reach the hundreds of non Christian families in our area. At the moment we have about 8-10 kids coming every week. Together we learn about Jesus, play games, eat food and have fun.

How can you get involved?

- Pray for 15-20 kids to come regularly
- Bring your child every week
- Bring someone along (friend, neighbour, grandchild etc)
- Serve (Walking bus, leading)



Chat with Pippie to get involved or leave us a comment on this week's connect card.

Special Religious Education (SRE)

In NSW we have the great opportunity to share the core message of the Bible with students in our public schools. At Willoughby Public School we run SRE for 250 students. The Tax Office allows donations to SRE to be tax deductible. We have a limited amount that can be allocated toward this tax-free component. If you would like to make an additional gift toward this before the financial year ends, please speak to our treasurer for details – nhenderson007@gmail.com

Thank you to those who generously support the ministry of our church. If you would like to consider your giving visit st-stephens.com.au/give to find more details. Supporting gospel ministry in the local church results in eternal benefit and is the best way to use our temporary resources.

What's Coming Up

- 14 June Evangelism Training Night: Sharing Jesus in everyday conversations with Kit Ng
- 15 June Encounter for Seniors - 10am-1pm (morning tea & lunch included)
- 17 June Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 21 June Evangelism Training Night: Sharing Jesus across cultures with Amelia Hohne
- 25 June Newish Morning Tea

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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