

JUNE-JULY 2023

GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



Wk 5

Sunday 2 July 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
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Genesis 29:13-30
(p. 29), 30:22-
31:13 (p. 30)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's! We are very glad to welcome you to our church community. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday. We would love to hear from you. Do take a moment to fill in the Connect Card.



You can use the QR Code to access an electronic version or you can use the hardcopy one in this booklet.

We've been going on a journey through the Old Testament's first book – Genesis. It's a realistic look at humans. There is nothing make believe about this. People are complex, vulnerable and at times deeply flawed. Genesis bring the full reality of humanity out for us.

Genesis is also a book about God. It's a introduction to the God who is not daunted by human failure but has planned for it and will overcome it in love. We want you to meet this God.

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.

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 30 July.
Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next Belonging Course on Sunday 10 September. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

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.

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

The Reality of Life | Genesis 29:13-30 & 30:22-31:13

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The State of Humanity

a. Deception

b. Disappointment

2. The Trap of History

a. The place of family

b. The myth of human progress

3. The Hope of the Future

a. Through it

b. Out of it

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. To what extent are things better than they used to be in the world? How is this not the case?

Read Gen 29:13-30

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What does Laban promise Jacob?
- B. How are the two sisters compared?
- C. What does Laban do to Jacob?
- D. How does Jacob respond?

2. Remind your group of the events of Gen 26:34-27:41. What are the similarities between those events and the passage we are studying this week?

3. Why might these similarities exist?

4. In John 8:44 Jesus calls the devil the 'father of all lies'. Do you experience deception & lies in your life and interactions? Is it an area you yourself have struggled with at times?

Notices

Kids and Youth Programs on Break

During the school holidays, our kids and youth programs take a break. Kids and Youth will stay in during the entire church service for the next two weeks. This is a great reminder to us all that young people are not just the church of the future but are members of the church today. It's a chance for young people to learn from seeing older Christians worshipping and an opportunity for adults to learn from the child like faith of our young people. Usual programs will resume on the 23rd of July.

Our mid-week groups are also on break during the school holidays.

Playtime

Who: 0-5-year-olds

When: Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am

Starts back 25th July



Friday Kids

Who: Kindy - Year 4

When: Friday, 3:30-5 pm

Starts back 28th July

Half Past Six Youth Group

Who: year 5-12

When: Friday, 6:30-8:30pm

Starts back 28th July

Serving in Music

Music is a great gift from God. It allows us to respond to God in thankfulness and praise for what He has done for us in Jesus. It allows us to sing gospel truths to each other to encourage and remind us of God's Word. It's such a valuable part of our church services.

We're blessed every week by our music team who rehearse and prepare the songs during the week. Without their hard work, we won't be able to sing on Sundays. Currently, we are still a bit short in our music team.

If God has given you musical gifts, can you consider volunteering to join this essential ministry? The musical level required to play well in a church band is not as high as you might think, and there are opportunities to be trained by Micah, Penny and others. Let Gordon know via the Connect Card.



Prayer Night

Are you in trouble? Are you burdened? Are you concerned for someone else? Do you long for a friend to know Jesus? Do you wish you knew what to do next with your life? Do you hope for help in ministry? Have you got spiritual concerns for a family member? Are you feeling overwhelmed? Do you feel alone? Do you need help? Are you feeling distant from God? Do you feel like he is silent?

The answer to all these problems is prayer. We need to pray! We've been reminded in Genesis of the sovereignty of God. We want to help you pray. We run weekly prayer meetings on Saturday mornings. Contact Liz Cooper via our Connect card for more details.

We are also holding our quarterly prayer meeting on Wednesday 26 July at 7:30pm-8:30pm.

Join us to pray. You do not need to have any experience. You can simply listen to other people's prayers or pray in small groups. We also love having children along.

Half Past Six

Half Past Six is our youth group that runs on Friday nights. This year we have been averaging 5-8 youth, which is a significant drop from last year. Our group now consists of youth from church families and one or two others. It's been hard for the youth and the leaders to see youth stop coming. Our youth are doing an amazing job of inviting friends along but this remains a slow process.

- Please pray for our HPS team as they work to grow the ministry.
- Pray for wisdom and creativity as we seek to connect with the young people in our community in new ways. Pray that God would give young people open hearts and that God might use the ministry of HPS to save many people.



What's Coming Up

3 July	Wardens' Meeting
10 July	Parish Council
21 July	Half Past Six Leaders Training
22 July	Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
25 July	Crafternoon for Kids Program
26 July	St Stephen's Prayer Night: 7:30-8:30pm in Chapel Hall

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/winter

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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