

JUNE-JULY 2023

GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



Wk 6

Sunday 9 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
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Genesis 32:1-5
(p. 33), 32:22-32
(p. 34), 35:1-15
(p. 36)
- 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 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.



It's the school holidays which means the kids and youth are joining us in the service this morning. We love this because church is family.

This is what Genesis tells us too. As we've been going through this book in the Bible, we have seen God showing mercy to a messy family. This is a picture of the church too. We are messy people, but because God shows his mercy to us in His Son, Jesus, we can be part of His family. We'd love you to meet this merciful God.

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. 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 on Sunday 10 September. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
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

Facing Our Fears | Genesis 32:1-5, 32:22-32, 35:1-15

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Facing God (Genesis 32)
 - a. A God who gives strength and comfort (v. 1-5)

 - b. A God who wrestles and blesses (v. 22-32)

2. Facing our future (Genesis 35)
 - a. The only God we can trust is the only God we must worship

 - b. God's people, under God's rule, in God's place

3. A God who faced our greatest fear to secure our greatest future

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Where do people go to deal with troubles or hardships in life? Give some examples you've seen from your friends/family. How effective do you think these solutions are?

Read Gen 32

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What are all the things that Jacob does to prepare himself to meet Esau?
- B. How would you describe how Jacob is feeling (v. 7)?
- C. Try to summarise what Jacob is praying (v. 9-12)
- D. What kind of state is Jacob in when he meets God (v. 23-24)?
- E. What are all the remarkable things about Jacob's wrestle with God?

2. Remind your group of the events that created tension between Jacob and Esau (Gen 27). Explain why the prospect of confronting him now would be so distressing for Jacob.

3. Before Jacob faces Esau, he has to face God (Gen 32:22-32). Discuss how this might reflect our own experiences in struggling with God over particular troubles in life.

4. What do you think about the idea that God lets his people struggle/wrestle with Him?

Read Luke 22:39-44

5. What similarities are there in Jesus's struggle with God in Gethsemane and Jacob's struggle with God? What are the differences?

6. How is our God so different to any other god/thing when it comes to facing hardship and troubles in life?

Prayer

- A. Share a particular trouble you are facing or have faced recently
- B. Spend time "wrestling" in prayer with God about this and asking for strength

Read the Bible with us!

Follow the story of Jacob and use these questions to guide you:

- 1. What harsh truths of life and humanity are presented?
- 2. How is God's character revealed?
- 3. Why do we need God/what might happen when we don't fully trust Him?

Monday - [Genesis 31:22-55](#)

Tuesday - [Genesis 32](#)

Wednesday - [Genesis 33](#)

Thursday - [Genesis 34](#)

Friday - [Genesis 35](#)

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. 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: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am

Starts back 25th July



Friday Kids

Who: Kindy - Year 4

When: Fridays, 3:30-5 pm

Starts back 28th July

Half Past Six Youth Group

Who: Year 5-12

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

Starts back 28th July

Crafternoon

As a church we want young people to develop biblically shaped active faith. One of the ways this happens is by kids doing craft that reinforces the Bible lesson.

We would love your help in preparing these craft activities. Having the craft prepared is helpful as it frees up the kid's leaders to spend more time preparing the biblical content of the lesson. We would really appreciate your help! You don't need any particular craft skills. If you can cut, glue or stick we can put you to good use!

Join in on Tuesday 25th July, 1-3pm in Hainsworth Hall.



Serving in Welcoming

Coming along to a church service for the very first time can be a potentially daunting prospect—Where do I enter the building? Where do I sit? What am I supposed to do? Who do I talk to? What if I don't understand anything?

As a church, we all want to be showing warmth and welcome to our visitors—this is what Jesus would do! We are blessed to have a dedicated team each week that arrives early to pray, organise Bibles and booklets to be given out, and stand at the door to welcome people to church. They are often the first impression people may have of our church.

We would love more people to join this team. If you are interested, please tick the box in the Connect Card or talk to Jill.

Prayer Night

In between today's Bible passages (Gen 32:9-12), we see one of the most commendable moments in Jacob's messy story. This moment is when this broken and messy man is on his knees in prayer to God. Jacob knows at that moment that he can only trust in God and so he prays. One of the biggest barriers to prayer is our pride. When we realise that only God is trustworthy and able to answer our deepest longings, we pray. Our trust in God is reflected in how much we pray and what we pray for.

As a church, we want to trust in God by praying big prayers shaped by the gospel.

This is why we are holding a Prayer Night on Wednesday 26 July, 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel Hall.

Join us to pray. This is a fantastic moment for our whole group—all three services—to come before God to lean on Him in prayer together.



Dumpling Making Night

A night of food and fun for everyone of all ages, plus a chance to think about culture, community and the Christian faith. Come and learn how to make authentic Chinese dumplings. You can make and eat as many as you can. You don't need to know how to make them—we will show you!

Tickets are now available at st-stephens.com.au/winter. If you'd like to volunteer to help out in any way, please get in touch with Gordon. This is an event for all ages—adults, kids and youth.

What's Coming Up

- 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

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