

JUNE-JULY 2023

# GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



Wk 7

Sunday 16 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
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Genesis 37:1-36  
(p. 39)
- Sermon
- Song
- 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 today. As the school holiday period ends and many return to the regular rhythms, we think being here is a great decision.

We would love to hear from you. Would you take a moment to fill in our Connect Card? The electronic version can be accessed using the QR code or you can use the hardcopy enclosed in this booklet.



We've been looking at the Old Testament book of Genesis. It's the starting point for the Bible's account of the world. The Bible situates your experiences, questions, suffering, joys, hopes, and ambitions in a great story. You are not part of some meaningless moment but included in the great story that God is unfurling slowly. To understand yourself, the world and those around you well requires understanding that story. The beginning, the middle and the end matter. Genesis is the beginning. It points to the middle – Jesus's life, death and resurrection. It prepares us for the end – Jesus's return to judge and renew the world. Come find your place in the story!

### 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

## Evil is at Home | Genesis 37:1-36

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Human evil leads to more human evil
  - a. The favouritism of a parent (v. 1-4)
  - b. The jealousy and hatred of brothers (v. 5-11)
  - c. Hatred breeds murderous intent and human trafficking (v. 12-28)
  - d. The 'silent' sins of self-love and deception (v. 29-36)
2. The silence in the story
  - a. A silent God
  - b. A silent victim
3. A God who became a silent victim of human evil to deal with it

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What answers and reactions do people have when they see horrible stories of human evil on the news?

## Read Genesis 37

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. How does Jacob's treatment of his children set up what is to follow in this story?
- B. How do Joseph's brothers respond to Jacob's preference for him and also when they hear his dreams?
- C. How does their jealousy lead to further evil towards Joseph in this story?
- D. What do you make of Reuben and Judah's roles in this story?
- E. How many times is God referenced in this story?

2. Why do you think that God is not referenced in this story? What might this tell us about human evil?

3. How does the human evil Genesis 37 echo previous examples of human evil in Genesis? (eg. skim Gen 3, 4, 27)

4. How does the view of human evil in Genesis differ from how our world sees human evil?



## Read Matthew 26:14-15 and 1 Peter 2:21-25

5. How does this story of Joseph foreshadow what Christ does?

6. What difference does it make to you that God dealt with human evil by becoming a victim of human evil?

## Prayer

A. Spend time confessing our sins before God and finding assurance in the blood of Jesus

B. If you are experiencing human evil, spend time praying for God's patience and deliverance. Pray in longing for heaven where there will be no more tears, pain, evil and death.



### GaP Group Reflection

This week's video: [youtu.be/MWENdKjeTBA](https://youtu.be/MWENdKjeTBA)

Watch the video and consider the following questions:

- i. How do you sustain your prayer life when your routines get shaken up?
- ii. What specific people and issues would you like to pray for over the coming term? Are there some non-Christian friends you can be praying for regularly?

## Read the Bible with us!

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

1. What is horrible or wrong in this story?
2. Can we still see God working through it? How?

Monday - [Genesis 37:2-11](#)

Tuesday - [Genesis 37:12-36](#)

Wednesday - [Genesis 38:1-30](#)

Thursday - [Psalm 14](#)

Friday - [Isaiah 53:2-12](#)

# Notices

## Prayer Night

On Wednesday 26 July at 7:30pm in the Chapel Hall we have the most important event of this term – our parish wide Prayer Night. We want our 1st characteristic as a church to be “Praying Big Prayers shaped by the Gospel”. This is a recognition that all the efforts of our community are fruitless unless the Lord is at work. Prayer is not our way of manipulating God, it is our way of acknowledging his power and sovereignty.

“

**“We pray because we are weak.  
We don’t get stuck in weakness  
however, because weakness is the  
launchpad for resurrection power.”**

**- Paul Miller**

”

Quarterly Prayer Nights are a great way to kick start your prayer life. You may not be comfortable praying out aloud. At these nights you can simply sit quietly and listen to the prayers of your Christian family and say Amen. Having engaged in sustained prayer, your own prayer life will be nourished as well.

## Parish Council

Our church is lead by various servant hearted people. Some of them make up our Parish Council. The Council meets every 2nd Monday of the month to review our finances, our property and reflect on how best to resource our mission. They are crucial to allowing us pray, bring, grow and celebrate together. The Parish Council is elected by members of the church at our Annual General Meeting every March. They are crucial to ensuring we plan well for the future and meet the obligations and responsibilities of the present.

Would you take a moment to give thanks for their ministry and pray for wisdom.

Our Council Members: Fred Chilton, Harriet Wintle, Nicky Warton, Adam Barnes, Garth Douglas, Lois Feros, Angela Taradilis, Nina Shou, Rob Cooper, Allan Saxby, Phil McLeod.



## 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](http://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.



## 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

## What's Coming Up

20 July	Encounter for Seniors - 10am-1pm (morning tea & lunch included)
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](http://st-stephens.com.au/winter)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



**Prashanth Colombage**  
Senior Minister  
M: 0432 314 466  
E: [prash@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:prash@st-stephens.com.au)



**Gordon Luk**  
Outreach & Sunday Services  
E: [gordon@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:gordon@st-stephens.com.au)



**Pippie Krebs**  
Kids & Youth Minister  
E: [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)



**Jill Chilton**  
Membership Minister  
E: [jill@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au)



**Melody Hoey**  
Off-site Administrator  
E: [office@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:office@st-stephens.com.au)