

JUNE-JULY 2023

GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



Wk 8

Sunday 23 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 39:1-23 (p. 41)
- 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're glad to welcome you into our church community today. There is no better place to be on a Sunday!

We would love to hear from you. How did you find church, what would you like us to pray for, how can we encourage and support you? Take a moment to fill in the connect card and let us know. You can use the hard copy or the electronic version (accessible via the QR Code).



Ever feel out of control? Feel like people and things are conspiring against you? Those moments remind us more than ever of our vulnerability. We may not be willing to accept the importance and necessity of God until we go through one of those moments. We want to help you as you seek to know the God who holds all things in his hands.

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

A Man of Integrity | Genesis 39

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Has he forgotten?

1. People of Integrity

3 Keys:

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

2. World of Deceit

The Wife & The Master

The world now

3. The Hand of Faithfulness

3 Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob,
all the remnant of the people of Israel,
you whom I have upheld since your birth,
and have carried since you were born.
4 Even to your old age and grey hairs
I am he, I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.
(Isaiah 46:3-4)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Do you long to be used by God? What needs to happen for that to be the case?

Read Genesis 39

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. How does Joseph get to Egypt?
- B. What does he do for Potiphar?
- C. How does Potiphar's wife try to seduce Joseph?
- D. How does Joseph respond?
- E. What happens to him because of his choices?

2. Who controls Joseph in these events? Why could that be deeply discouraging for him?

3. What role does God play? Is there any comfort in this for Joseph?

4. How do you respond when you feel the injustices of the world are against you?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

5. How does Jesus give us a greater understanding of the comfort God is offering Joseph & us when faced with challenges to our integrity?

6. How can 'holding Jesus's hand' help us live with integrity?

Prayer Focus

A. Pray that HPS/Friday Kids would raise young people who have Biblical integrity.

B. Pray God would add to their number and raise up new additional leadership.



GaP Group Reflection

This week's video: youtu.be/UARSJRunOog

Watch the video and consider the following questions:

- i. Why is Kids & Youth Ministry so important yet challenging?
- ii. How can your group partner with Pippie & her team this term?

Read the Bible with us!

1. How has God called his people to live?

What does that mean to you?

2. What encouragement does he provide?

3. Ask God to enable you to live with Biblical integrity.

Monday - [Genesis 39](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 105:1-22](#)

Wednesday - [2 Timothy 3:10-17](#)

Thursday - [Philippians 1:18b-30](#)

Friday - [1 Peter 5:6-10](#)

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.

Kids and Youth Programs Start Back!

Our usual kids and youth programs have been on break over the holidays but they start back this week!

Sunday Kids and Youth

When: Sunday during 9:45am service
Starts back 23rd July

Friday Kids

Who: Kindy - Year 4
When: Fridays, 3:30-5 pm
Starts back 28th July

Playtime

Who: 0-5-year-olds
When: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am
Starts back 25th July



Half Past Six Youth Group

Who: Year 5-12
When: Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm
Starts back 28th July

Crafternoon

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

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!



Newish Morning Tea

If you consider yourself new to St Stephen's then we want to welcome you. We run Newish Morning Teas every month to help people get their bearings, meet staff and other new people and take a step further into church life. Our next Newish is on Sunday 30 July after the 9:45am service.

Dumpling Making Night

Dumpling Making Night is on Friday 11 August, 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

This is an event for everyone of all ages (kids, youth, adults). It is a night of food and fun—you don't need to know how to make dumplings! Come along and bring your friends.

As we make dumplings and eat them, there is a chance to connect and chat with others. After dinner, Pippie and her team will run the kids program. The youth will get a taste of our HPS youth group. The adults will have a taste of the Simply Christianity course. Tickets available at st-stephens.com.au/winter.

Please grab some fliers from the back of church and help out with our Letterbox Drop. We want to invite everyone to this!



What's Coming Up

- 25 July Crafternoon for Kids Program
- 26 July St Stephen's Prayer Night: 7:30-8:30pm in Chapel Hall
- 29 July Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 30 July Newish Morning Tea
- 7 August Wardens' Meeting

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

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