

SEPTEMBER 2023

# GENESIS

Mercy for a messy family



Wk 9

## Sunday 3 September 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 42:1-21  
(p. 45), 44:1-34  
(p. 47), 45:1-18  
(p. 48)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- The Lord's  
Supper
- 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. There is no better place to be on a Sunday. If you are new or visiting, we want to hear from you. Would you take a moment to fill in our Connect Card? There is a paper version in this booklet or an electronic version that is accessible via the QR Code.



Today we want to thank all those fathers and father figures in our lives. A gentle and strong father figure is such a blessing. For some, this day is filled with sadness. Perhaps an absent father, abusive father or a father who has recently passed away brings us grief. We want to grieve with you. This world is not how it should be. May our strong and kind heavenly Father bring you comfort in this life as you look forward to meeting him in the next.

### 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 24 September. 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 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

How hard is proper reconciliation! | Gen 42:1-21, 44:1-34, 45:1-18

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Taking evil and repentance seriously (Gen 42:1-21)

2. Judah's sacrifice (Gen 44:1-34) and Joseph's forgiveness (Gen 45:1-18)

3. Salvation and reconciliation through Christ, our brother

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What makes reconciliation between people in conflict difficult to achieve? Why?

## Read Genesis 42-43

3. What is going on for each of the different characters in the story?

- Joseph
- Jacob
- Reuben
- Judah
- Benjamin

## Read Genesis 44-45

3. What is so remarkable about Judah's actions?

4. Looking back at the Joseph story, what can we see God doing? What was God achieving and how did He do it? (Gen 45:6-7)

5. How does Joseph's understanding of God (Gen 45:6-7) differ to Reuben's understanding of things (Gen 42:22, 37)?

6. How does Judah's offer of sacrificing himself for Benjamin point to Christ?

7. How does God sending Joseph ahead of his brothers to save his family point to God sending Christ ahead of us?

8. How does the gospel of reconciliation help us to be different to how our world does reconciliation?

## Prayer Time

A. Thank God for the reconciliation we have with Him because of Christ's actions.

B. Pray that we would model a gospel mindset when we seek peace with those who have hurt us.



### GaP Group Reflection

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

- i. What are some of the pressures young people face in following Jesus?
- ii. How can our church support the young in their faith?

## Read the Bible with us!

1. Read the passage.
2. What does this show about God's character? (ie. His mercy, grace, sovereignty)
3. What does this show about human brokenness?

Monday - [Genesis 38](#)

Tuesday - [Genesis 39-40](#)

Wednesday - [Genesis 41-42](#)

Thursday - [Genesis 43](#)

Friday - [2 Corinthians 5](#)

# Notices

## Mission Gift Day

Thank you to those who have generously given to our Mission Gift Day appeal. So far, we have raised \$18,350 out of our target of \$20,000.

Giving to our missionaries is a way of partnering with them in the spread of the gospel. Going out into the world to serve God and proclaim his mercies is always easier when we do it together. Each of our link missionaries has expressed genuine joy at the partnership we get to share with them. Our gifts enable them to do the immeasurably good work of pointing people to the grace of God. God doesn't need our gifts but he graciously draws us into his mission by inviting us to share what he has already generously given us. If you are planning to give there is still time. Any amount over our target will be a joyful bonus to our link missionaries.

You can give by visiting [st-stephens.com.au/give](http://st-stephens.com.au/give) for bank details and adding "Mission23" to your transfer reference.



## National Grandparent Conference

The National Grandparent Conference (NGC) continues to be the building block for the National Grandparent Movement (NGM). It seeks to engage, equip and encourage grandparents, surrogate grandparents and ministry leaders to be intentional in leaving a legacy for others to follow, especially our grandchildren; a legacy that shapes their character and faith.

**When: Saturday 16th September**

**Where: Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Road, Figtree NSW**

For more details and to register by 10 September, visit [ngmlegacy.com.au](http://ngmlegacy.com.au)

## Belonging Course

Our Belonging course is the gateway into the deeper life of St Stephen's. The next course is coming up on **Sunday 10 September 12-3pm** and includes lunch, afternoon tea, a great time with others from the church, time with the staff and helpful info and discussion to bring you into the heart of our great church family. If you want to grow spiritually, encourage, and grow others, embrace the direction of our church, and feel more comfortable belonging to St Stephen's then this is worth setting aside the time.

If you haven't done the course yet, register by speaking to Jill Chilton or visiting our website at [st-stephens.com.au/belonging](http://st-stephens.com.au/belonging)

## Kids and Youth Update

Praise God! Two weeks ago at Friday Kids we had Reptile Week where 27 kids came along. Last week we had 18 kids, many who had come along for the first time the previous week. Please pray that these kids will continue to come along and explore Jesus.

Half Past Six our youth ministry is continuing to struggle. We had 19 youth come to Dumpling Making Night. But sadly no new people have continued to come. Please pray that our youth and leaders would not be discouraged by this. Please pray for wisdom as we think about how we can best disciple our youth and reach out to our young people.



## Serving at Church

Would you like to activate your service muscles? The ministry leaders would love to chat with you about how you can best do that given your stage of life, skills and experience. Take a moment and let us know your interest via the Connect Card. We will make a time to chat with you, discuss the opportunities currently available and pray for you as you seek to follow God's direction. Take this first step and see what God might have you do.

# What's Coming Up

- 4 September Wardens' Meeting
- 8 September Simply Christianity Course - Week 3
- 9 September Weekly Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
- 10 September Belonging Course
- 24 September Newish Morning Tea

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/spring](http://st-stephens.com.au/spring)

## 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)

[st-stephens.com.au](http://st-stephens.com.au) | 9415 1727 | [office@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:office@st-stephens.com.au)