

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 4

Sunday 31 August 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Prayers
- Bible Reading: Philippians 2:12-18 (p. 1179)
- Sermon
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome! We're really glad you've joined us this morning. Each week we gather because Jesus has drawn us together and is at work making us into something **beautiful, diverse, and large—by his grace alone**. This term we're working through Paul's letter to the Philippians, a book that keeps showing us the joy and purpose of following Christ.



Today, we'll be looking at Philippians 2:12-18, where Paul urges God's people to "shine like stars." It's a picture of a church community that stands out—not because we're impressive—but because we reflect the light of Jesus.

Last week it was a huge encouragement to see so many at our All-In Training, eager to serve. We're thankful, too, for those serving us in different ways this morning. Whether you're here for the first time or have been here for years, our prayer is that you see more of Christ today - take a moment to let us know how you found it using the QR code.

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 today. 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** which runs on 14 September from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Jill. Simply reach out – she'd love to chat.

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.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Ps 103:10-12

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

Living a life that lights the way | Philippians 2:12-18

Preacher: Gordon Luk

Jesus's Story, Our Story

How the gospel-life shines

1. Working with the God who works in us (v. 12-13)
2. Holding out the Word instead of grumbling (v. 14-16)
3. Rejoicing though being poured out (v. 17-18)

Shining the light of Christ

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Before you became a Christian, what stood out to you about the Christian faith and life?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 2:12-18

1. How is “working out your salvation” with the God who works in us (v. 12-13) different to:
 - a. The way of No Religion (ie. Working hard to create a worthy life ignoring God)
 - b. The way of Religion (ie. Working hard to create a worthy life in order for God to accept you)
2. Why is it so easy to grumble about our circumstances? What damage do you think it does to our “shining like lights in a crooked world”?
3. In contrast to grumbling, what is different about the joy Paul has? How is this joy not linked to his circumstances but to Christ and how others are living for Christ?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions and praying together.

1. How can you work with God who's working in you to cultivate joy despite your circumstances?

2. How can you work with God who's working in you to let Christ shine out of you and your life?

Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What comfort is the Spirit giving me through this passage?
2. How is He challenging me through this passage?

Monday - [1 John 1](#)

Tuesday - [1 John 2](#)

Wednesday - [1 John 3](#)

Thursday - [1 John 4](#)

Friday - [1 John 5](#)

Notices

Newish Morning Tea

If you're new or visiting, we'd love to invite you to join us for a special morning tea after the service. It's a relaxed time with delicious food, a warm drink, and friendly faces. It's a great way to hear more about church life and how to get connected. It goes for about 20 minutes. We would love to see you there!



Belonging

The key to a rich church experience is really belonging to the community. Belonging to church is unlike any other group. On top of that belonging to our church has its own special and lovely features. We want newer members to experience the heart of this great community.

We run a 'Belonging Lunch' once every quarter to help this happen.

The next one is on Sunday 14 September. Let us know via the Connect Card if you are interested in attending.



Notices

Playtime Alpha

We are running Alpha after playtime during September. This is a wonderful opportunity for carers to explore questions of life, faith and meaning. Who can you bring along?

- 📍 Where: St Stephen's
- 📅 When: Tuesdays in September
- 🕒 Time: 11:00-12:00 (after Playtime)

Light Lunch and kids' program included



Youth Camp

Half Past Six Youth Camp is coming up in the school holidays, and we couldn't be more excited! Last year, we celebrated having 13 youth join us at camp, and we're praying for even more this year. Camp is for anyone in Years 6-12 and will be held in the Blue Mountains from September 30 - October 3. It's four days full of friends, fun, adventure, and most importantly, time in God's Word as we encourage our youth to know and love Jesus more deeply. Please be praying and inviting! Registrations are now open.



What's Coming Up

1 September	Alpha Course
2 September	Playtime with Alpha
13 September	Working Bee
14 September	Belonging Course
21 September	Newish Morning Tea

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

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