



Numbers:

through the wilderness...

Week 1

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Kids Ministry Focus & Prayer
- Song
- Bible Reading: Numbers 1:1-19, 44-46 (p.132) & John 10:14-18 (p.1075)
- Sermon
- Missionary Video
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

Sunday 3 May 2026

Welcome! It's great to have you with us as we begin our new series In the Wilderness, exploring the book of Numbers. Whether you're new, visiting, or part of our church family, we're really glad you're here. The wilderness might sound like a distant place, but in many ways it reflects life today—uncertain, stretching, and often beyond our control. In Numbers 1, we see something surprising: God doesn't treat His people as a crowd, but knows them personally, calling them by name and drawing them into His purposes.

In a culture where we can feel overlooked or defined by performance, this is deeply reassuring. The God of the Bible is not distant—He knows us and wants us to know Him.

Our hope this term is that we would see more clearly our need for God in our everyday lives. We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, shaped by His personal care for us.



Connect Card

Next Steps

Are you new? [Catch up](#) with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

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 June 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 sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

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

Our Identity | Numbers 1, John 10

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Were you brought up to think more about yourself as an individual or as someone connected to a bigger community?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Numbers 1:1-19

1. In pairs, list out all the questions you have about this passage.
2. Reflect on what we are told in verse 1 about the context of Numbers.
What are we told about Israel's identity in relation to the LORD? Why do you think this matters? What similarities are there with our identity as Christians?
3. From this context, why do you think God wants His people to be wholly committed to Him and His community even to the point of serving in the army (v. 3)? How does this challenge our individualistic culture?
4. In what ways do we see that the right response to God's grace and our identity in Him is undevoted sacrificial service to Him and belonging to His community? How are you challenged to see what your identity is in relation to Christ?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Read John 10:14-18

In light of Jesus sacrificial service of us, use these questions to guide your prayers together and also for our link missionaries, Kylie Zietsch.

1. What ungodly responses to God's grace and your identity in Christ do you need to confess?
2. In what ways can you give thanks to God for who you are in Christ?
3. How can you pray for Kylie and her ministry in light of God's Word here? Spend time praying for her to keep seeing her identity in Christ, and for God to use her ministry to bring many other sheep back to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Spend time with God each day!

We're going through the Old Testament this term!

Read through the passages and use the following questions to help you.

- What does this show you about God and His character?
- What does this show you about humanity (us)?
- How does this point to what Jesus will do or what He'll be like?

Monday - Exodus 2

Tuesday - Exodus 3

Wednesday - Exodus 4

Thursday - Exodus 5

Friday - Exodus 6

Notices

Learning from the OT - The value of reading it together

Here are three reasons why it's such a privilege to sit under God's Word in the Old Testament.

1. **We get to learn about who God is** — God is the main character of the whole Bible, and as we read the Old Testament, we get to know who He is and His character.
2. **We see Jesus** — without the Old Testament, our view of Jesus is like a 2D, black and white image. The Old Testament is all about Jesus and when we read it it makes our vision of Him so beautiful and glorious.
3. **It's written for us** — the New Testament says (Rom 15:4, 1 Cor 10:11) that the Old Testament was written to warn and encourage us as Christians to keep following the Lord. As we read it, God's Spirit will help us grow in our faith, knowledge and love of God.

Join a GaP Group



We all need constant reminders of the gospel and so the Bible encourages us to meet regularly to encourage one another (Heb 10:24-25). We need each other to point us to the forgiveness and eternal life we have in Christ. If you follow Jesus and call St Stephen's home, we'd love to invite you to join a GaP group. These groups meet midweek to feed on God's Word and pray for each other so that the gospel shapes every part of our lives. Scan the QR code or fill out a Connect Card to register your interest, and Gordon will get in touch to chat about the best group for you.



Notices

Kids & Youth Dumpling Making Night

While they were away at KYCK last weekend, our youth made a couple of videos promoting our upcoming dumpling making night! It will be an awesome event to connect with many more youth and children in our area. Have you signed up? If you don't have kids, or you're already planning to come, who could you use the videos to invite? They'll be up on our social media pages over the next couple of weeks.



Mission Gift Day

Each year we partner with our Link Missionaries financially to help meet their costs. Our general budget has set aside 8% this year. In addition we seek to raise \$35k over the month of May. This allows for a substantial gift at the end of the year. Would you please prayerfully consider how you can give to our Link Missionaries. Further details about how to give will come in subsequent weeks.

A promotional graphic for Mission Gift Day 2026. The background features a globe on a wooden desk next to an open book and a potted plant. The text is overlaid on a dark blue background. The main title "MISSION GIFT DAY" is in large, bold, white and yellow letters, with "2026" in a smaller, white, cursive font below it. Below the title is a globe icon and the text "SUPPORTING OUR LINK MISSIONARIES". At the bottom, there are two white buttons: one with a heart icon and the text "GOAL: \$35,000", and another with a calendar icon and the text "31 MAY 2026".

**MISSION
GIFT DAY**
2026

 **SUPPORTING OUR
LINK MISSIONARIES**

 **GOAL: \$35,000**

 **31 MAY 2026**

What's Coming Up

15 May	Dumpling Making Night
17 May	All In Training
24 May	Newish Morning Tea
29 - 31 May	Square 1 Camp
31 May	Mission Gift Day

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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