



Numbers:

through the wilderness...

Week 8

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Children's Ministry Spot
- Song
- Bible Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 (p.155) & John 3:1-18 (p.1064)
- Sermon
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

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

Sunday 21 June 2026

Welcome! We're glad you're with us as we continue our series In the Wilderness.

Numbers 21 takes us into a bleak scene. God's people are weary, frustrated, and poisoned by deadly snakes. What begins as grumbling quickly becomes a crisis they

cannot solve themselves. Here on the Lower North Shore, we are surrounded by success, opportunity, and comfort. Yet beneath the surface, many still carry guilt, anxiety, and spiritual hunger.

In Numbers God provides an unexpected rescue: a bronze snake lifted high for all to see. Those who look in faith live.

Jesus tells us in John 3 that this strange wilderness moment points directly to Him. Just as the snake was lifted up, so Jesus would be lifted up on the cross. Our deepest problem is not simply stress, disappointment, or uncertainty—it is our broken relationship with God. And the only cure is found in Christ.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, helping people find life by looking to Jesus.



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 September 13 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 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

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

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 Solution to our poison hearts | Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:1-18

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Poisoned by Discontent

Mysterious Medicine

Wondrous Healing

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

Before our Numbers series—how did you feel about the Old Testament? How has God grown your understanding that it points to Christ, and through Him, speaks to us now?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Numbers 21:4-9

1. Retell the story either by:
 - (a) acting it out, or
 - (b) drawing a comic strip/storyboard of the events (you may need scrap paper).
2. Fill in the following table.

In Numbers 21:4-9, what is the...	Read the following Bible references—how does it point to something bigger?
Sin	Numbers 20:2-5; 14:2-4; 11:1-6
Consequence	Genesis 3:1-15
Remedy	John 3:14-16

3. Summarise how Numbers 21:4-9 shows us the gospel of Jesus. Reflect on the sin and its consequences in your own life—what would it look like for you to look to the bronze serpent of Christ this week?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's word, pray together using the following questions as a guide.

1. Adoration: How can you praise/adore God for who He is and what He's done?
2. Confession: Are there areas of grumbling, ungratefulness, rebellion, self-centeredness that you might need to confess to God in repentance and faith?
3. Thanksgiving: What can you be thankful to God for in Christ?
4. Supplication: What areas of your life can you ask for God's help to trust more in Him than in yourself or others?

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 - Numbers 17

Tuesday - Numbers 18

Wednesday - Numbers 19

Thursday - Numbers 20

Friday - Numbers 21

Notices

Spiritual Growth

Christians should take responsibility for spiritual growth, making every effort to keep growing in Him (2 Peter 1:5–7).

If you'd like help building good Bible reading habits, Richard Chin's *How to Read the Bible Better* is available from the bookstall—a practical and encouraging guide for all Christians to use as they follow Jesus faithfully each day. And grow in grace with others.



Serving - Want to join a ministry team?

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." — 1 Peter 4:10

Church isn't a cruise ship where a few serve and everyone else relaxes. It's more like a life raft, with everyone working together to help people find life in Jesus. As followers of Christ, we want to be courageous gospel servants who do not just consume but contribute, using our gifts to bless others.



"If you'd like to join a team, we'd love to help you find a place to serve."

Notices

Sharing Faith - International Food Feast & Alpha

International Food Feast and Alpha begin on Monday 17 August.

Last year, one of our members prayed for a friend and invited her to the International Food Feast. That friend came, then did Alpha, and then began reading John's Gospel at Come and See. Behind each step was her Christian friend who kept praying, encouraging, investing time and energy to walk alongside her.

Who could you start praying for today? Pray also for yourself that you're ready for the long haul of walking alongside them as they journey towards faith in Jesus? Let's see what God might do!



Kids & Youth

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."
— Psalm 78:4

Every child and teenager is forming a foundation for life right now. We have an opportunity to impact their eternity by passing on the good news of Jesus. What could be a better use of your time?



What could you do to help tell the next generation? Interested in serving? Let Pippie know.

What's Coming Up

22 June	Come and See
28 June	Newish Morning Tea
29 June	Come and See
16 July	Encounter
21 July	Crafternoon

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

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