



# Numbers:

through the wilderness...

Week 9

## TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Vision Spot
- Kids Ministry Spot
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Bible Reading:  
Numbers 22:1-4, 21-35, 23:16-26 (p.157)  
& Romans 8:31-39 (p.1133)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Announcement
- Song
- Conclusion

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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

## Sunday 28 June 2026

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

This week we encounter one of the most surprising scenes in Numbers. Kings scheme, prophets plot, and nations tremble.

Yet above all the noise and confusion stands

a God who refuses to let His purposes fail. Again and again, we discover that what God has blessed cannot be cursed.

That truth is deeply reassuring. Here on the Lower North Shore, many of us live with the sense that everything depends on us—our decisions, our planning, our performance. Yet life often reminds us how little control we actually possess.

Numbers 22-23 and Romans 8 invite us to lift our eyes. Behind the headlines, setbacks, and uncertainties stands a sovereign God whose purposes for His people are good. Nothing can separate us from His love in Christ.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, resting confidently in the God who is always working for our good.



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

<sup>1</sup>Nothing... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

## 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

God's sovereignty is good for his people | Numbers 22:1-6, 21-35, 23:16-26 & Romans 8:31-39

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Balaam couldn't see God's anger (Numbers 22)

2. Israel couldn't see God's protection (Numbers 23)

3. Can you see God's favour to you? (Romans 8:31-39)

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

## Discuss together

Have you ever been asked: “How do you believe and have a relationship with a God you can’t see?” How did you react and respond?

## Going deep in God’s Word

### Read Numbers 22:1-23:16

1. Discuss the following characters in the story. What are we told about them and what they see?

(a) Balak

(b) the donkey

(c) Balaam

2. What are we shown about God in this passage? What lessons are there in how He deals with Balaam? What comforts are there in how He deals with Israel?

3. Imagine you’re an Israelite, stuck in a pattern of grumbling and sin against God—then reading this story about Balaam trying to curse you but God turning it into your blessing. What would make you laugh? What would make you thankful?

## 🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Read [Romans 8:31-39](#) and spend some time praying. You may use the following questions as guides.

1. Have you been struggling recently to see God's favour to you? Why is that?  
What assurances are there for you in God's Word today?

2. Have you been struggling with 'Balaam's error' (a heart drawn to self-profit and greed) and blind to God's commandments against this?

## 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 22](#)

Tuesday - [Numbers 23](#)

Wednesday - [Numbers 24](#)

Thursday - [Numbers 25](#)

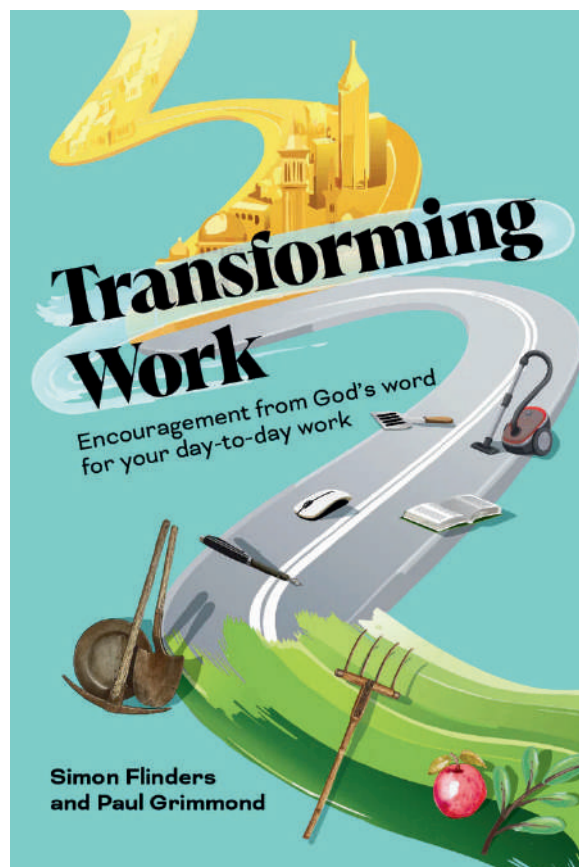
Friday - [Numbers 26](#)

## Notices

### Spiritual Growth

God encourages all Christians to “make every effort” to keep growing in faith, knowledge, godliness, and love (2 Peter 1:5–7). One way we can do this is by reading good Christian books that help us apply God’s Word to everyday life.

Visit the Chapel Hall bookstall and check out Simon Flinders’ *Transforming Work*. Since many of us spend a large part of our week at work, this practical and engaging book will help you think biblically about your work and its place in God’s purposes.



### Helping You Share Your Faith

Most of us want to talk about Jesus with our friends—we might not know where or how to start. In preparation for the International Food Feast and Alpha starting up mid-August, join us for Evangelism Training: Having Spiritual Conversations. Caroline Spencer (City Bible Forum & Willoughby Park Anglican) and Gordon will share practical ways to move beyond small talk and into meaningful conversations about life, faith, and Jesus.

# Evangelism Training

**Wednesday 22 July 7:30pm–9pm**  
**Dinner at 7pm \$10**

**‘Having spiritual conversations’**

Scan the QR code to book





**Caroline Spencer**  
City Bible Forum &  
Willoughby Park Anglican  
**and Gordon Luk**

## Notices

### Finances - Celebrating Generosity of Mission Gift Day



## Playtime

Playtime is much more than a fun and safe place for children to play. It's an opportunity for families to explore faith and have meaningful conversations. In recent years, we've seen one mum become a Christian and another begin reading the Bible regularly—wonderful reminders that God is at work through this ministry. Next term we are running Alpha after the group. Is there someone you could bring along?



## What's Coming Up

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| 13 July | Come and See        |
| 16 July | Encounter           |
| 20 July | Come and See        |
| 21 July | Crafternoon         |
| 22 July | Evangelism Training |

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

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



**Prashanth Colombage**  
Senior Minister & Sunday Services  
M: 0432 314 466  
E: [prash@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:prash@st-stephens.com.au)



**Gordon Luk**  
Outreach & Spiritual Maturity  
E: [gordon@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:gordon@st-stephens.com.au)



**Pippie Krebs**  
Kids & Youth Ministry & Training  
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)



**Emlyn Hoyt**  
Ministry Trainee  
E: [emlyn.hoyt@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:emlyn.hoyt@st-stephens.com.au)