



Week 1

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Psalm 112 (p.607)
& 2 Corinthians 9:
6-15 (p.1162)
- Sermon
- Song
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's
collection is received
electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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00490436

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

Sunday 23 August 2026

Welcome! We're glad you're here as we begin our new series.

We often talk about generosity as though it is simply a personality trait: some people are generous, others are not. But the Bible takes us somewhere deeper. Christian generosity begins not with what is inside us, but with what God has already done for us. The God who gave His own Son is abundantly good—and His generosity becomes the foundation for ours.

In a culture where it can be tempting to wonder whether we have enough, God invites us to trust His goodness rather than live from fear or scarcity.

As a church, we long to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. Generosity is part of that beauty: lives opened up to God and to one another because we have discovered just how generously God has opened His hands to us.



Connect Card

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 30 August**. 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 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

Prayer is a privilege we have because of Christ's death and resurrection. Through him, we can confidently approach God for forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you trust in Christ, please pray with us. If you are still exploring who Jesus is, feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:31-32

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.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God,
whose goodness is beyond all measure,
and whose greatest gift is your Son our Saviour:
grant that, having freely received your mercy,
we may abound in every good work,
trusting your faithful provision,
and delighting to reflect your generous heart;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Getting started with Generosity | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 & Psalms 112

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

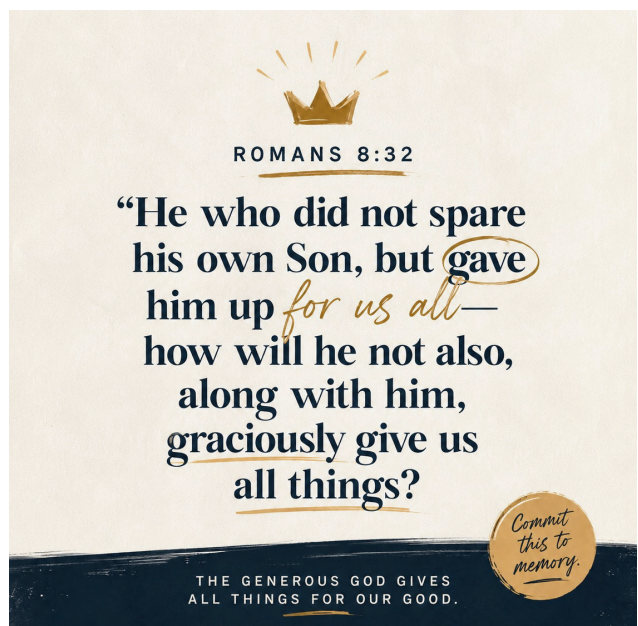
Heartfelt Giving

Deep roots

In Creation

In the Gospel

Ongoing Generosity



Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

Imagine someone gave you an unlimited debit card, but it could only be used to bless other people. How do you think your attitude towards generosity would change? What might still be difficult?

Going deep in God's Word

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

1. What words or ideas are repeated throughout this passage?

(a) What kind of giving does God desire (v. 6-7)

(b) What does God promise to do (v. 8-10)? And how does this explain why cheerful generosity is commanded (v. 6-7)?

2. Reflect on the story/narrative we might live by. Which of the following feels most true in practice? How does life on the Lower North Shore encourage the second story?

“God is generous, so I can trust Him.”
“Ultimately, my security depends on me.”

3. Why is cheerful generosity so difficult? How does verse 8 answer those fears?

Read Romans 8:31-32

4. How does the Cross show us that God is the ultimate generous giver? How can God's generosity reshape how we think about our money and possession?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's generosity to us in Christ, spend some time (on your own first, then together) reflecting on the following questions. Then give thanks to God together before asking him for help in trusting, delighting and reflecting His generosity to others.

1. Where are you most tempted to believe: "Ultimately, my security depends on me." ?

2. How might trusting God's generosity change the way you respond?

3. Choose one concrete step this week that expresses trust in God's goodness.
Some examples.

- Giving financially
- Opening up your home
- Giving time to help someone
- Serving others at church
- Resisting an unnecessary purchase
- Thanking God before making a financial decision
- Choosing contentment instead of comparison

Spend time with God each day!

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

- How does this passage make me adore Jesus?
- How is it challenging me? How is it comforting me?
- What is something I need to do today in light of this?

Monday – Galatians 2
Tuesday – Galatians 3
Wednesday – Galatians 4
Thursday – Galatians 5
Friday – Galatians 6

Notices

Financial Partnership

Church is a wondrous partnership of people who long for God to be known, worshipped and glorified. We share in this partnership through many ways - one of which is financial. Everything that happens in our church life is supported by generous in our church family. Thank you! Your gifts are used for the growth of God's kingdom and the encouragement of his saints. Our International Food Feast was a great example of this partnership in action.

If you would like to start giving visit our
give page -
st-stephens.com.au/give



Last All In Training for the year



All-In Training is on **20 September**! This is our final training day for the year—a valuable opportunity for our Kids & Youth teams to come together, grow, learn and be encouraged as we serve Jesus and our young people. It's an important time to invest in ourselves and one another, so please make it a priority to come along.



Sign up today!

Notices

How Special is Church!

What do an Indian, a 30 something from the central coast and actuary have in common? They all know and have experienced the love of Christ! One of the joys of church life is we spend time with people we wouldn't otherwise know. We do not just spend time with them but can legitimately call them brothers and sisters in Christ.



Who can you get to know better who is not like you? Put the gospel into practice this week and connect with a member of our church whose greatest similarity to you is their faith in Jesus.

Playtime Alpha Begins on Tuesday!

Is there more to life than this?

Alpha

TryAlpha

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome.

Alpha is a relaxed, welcoming space to explore life's big questions and discover more about Jesus, specially designed for those with young children. After Playtime, enjoy a light lunch, short video and open discussion, while the Playtime Aunties care for children in the crèche. **Alpha runs Tuesday 25 August, 1, 8 & 15 September, 11:00–11:45am.**

Praise God! Three people have already said yes to coming! 🙌

What's Coming Up

24 August	Alpha
24 August	Come and See
25 August	Playtime Alpha
30 August	Newish Morning Tea
31 August	Alpha

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

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