



Week 3

Sunday 6 September 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Prayer for Children
- Bible Reading: Exodus 16:1-30 (p.71) & 1 Timothy 6:2-10 (p.1195)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.

BSB: 062 272

Account Number:
00490436

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

Welcome! We're glad you're here as we continue our series Generosity: God's good plan for the stuff you have. This week we're asking a deeper question: Where is my security? We're surrounded by messages

telling us that the wise thing to do is accumulate—save more, insure ourselves against the future and make sure we have enough. There is wisdom in planning, but the Bible asks us to look beneath our financial decisions: What are we trusting to make us feel safe?

Paul reminds Timothy that money can promise security while quietly becoming our master. Christian contentment isn't pretending we don't need anything. It is knowing that, because of Jesus, we already possess something the world cannot take away. We long to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ—a people whose security rests not in what we have, but in the God who has given us an eternal inheritance.



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 November 22 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

Living with Contentment | 1 Timothy 6 & Exodus 16

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Contentment is crucial

“Life on earth is a brief pilgrimage between two moments of nakedness. So, we would be wise to travel light.” John Stott

Fear that leads to misplaced love

The sufficiency of Jesus



Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

What is something you find yourself wanting more of, even though you have enough? Where do you think this desire comes from—our culture, our peers, our upbringing, ourselves?

Going deep in God's Word

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-16

1. What do you notice about the way Paul speaks about contentment, wealth and desire (v. 6-10)?
2. Re-read verses 7 and 8. How does this challenge the way our culture defines “enough”? What might contentment look like for a Christian living in a wealthy and wealth-driven city like Sydney?

Read Exodus 16:1-18, 31-35

3. Why do you think God gave Israel manna a day at a time (rather than letting them store it up)? What is God teaching them about Himself (see especially verse 4)?
4. Reflect on this statement: Contentment means receiving today as God's gift and trusting Him with tomorrow. In what ways does this challenge our fears when we seek to store up financial reserves? What's the difference between wise stewarding and finding our security apart from God?

Read John 6:32-40

5. Why does Jesus say “I am the bread of life” rather than simply telling us He gives bread to us? How does He fulfil the picture of God's provision in Exodus 16 at the deepest level?
6. How does knowing Christ change our need to find security in money, possessions, comfort or control?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of the both the challenges and comforts of God's Word, spend time confessing your sin to one another and encouraging each other to the grace and obedience of God. Use the following questions to guide you.

1. If contentment means trusting God with the future, what fears about the future are making you discontent (eg. "What if I don't have enough?" "What if I lose what I have?" "What if I don't have the lifestyle I want?" "What if I can't provide for my family?")

Confess these to our merciful God.

2. Where do you struggle to believe that God is enough and thank Him for providing for all you?

Thank God for His providence and pray that we would find our deepest satisfaction in Christ.

3. Where might God be calling you to "travel lighter"? How could greater contentment make you more generous with your money, time, capacity, resources, hospitality, service

Spend time with God each day!

As we think about generosity from the Bible this month, read through these passages using the questions to help you.

1. What does this teach me about God and the things He has given me?
2. When I lose sight of God as the giver and owner of everything I have, how am I tempted to respond with fear, control or selfishness?
3. Because everything I have is from God, what is one way I can faithfully steward His gifts today?

Monday – 1 Timothy 6:6-16

Tuesday – Exodus 16

Wednesday – John 6:32-40

Thursday – John 6:41-70

Friday – Matthew 6:25-34

Notices

What our giving allows

At night on a Sunday our evening congregation wander through the dark in winter to join us at church. Newcomers are often attending but the winter nights result in lower turn out. This year we installed lighting throughout the site to make Sunday Winter Nights more welcoming. When members give to ministry this is a small example of how that generosity is used.

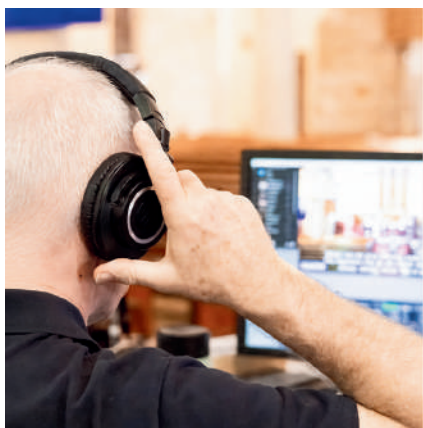


If you are new and looking to partner financially with St Stephen's then visit our 'give' page (st-stephens.com.au/give) or check out the front of the Sunday booklet for details.

Take Your Next Step in Christ

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

— Colossians 2:6-7



How can you continue to grow in Christ?

God wants each of us to take ownership of our spiritual growth—through meeting with Him daily in prayer and the Word, growing alongside other Christians, and using our gifts to serve at church. As a church, we'd love to help you take your next step in your spiritual growth journey. Why not fill out a Connect Card today if you'd like to join a GaP Group, find a place to serve, or get help growing in your daily Bible reading and prayer.



Join a GaP Group

Notices

Carols on the Grass - Save the Date

We want to shine the light of Christ brighter into our community and Carols on the Grass is one of the best opportunities we each have to bring a friend along to hear the message of Jesus.



Please put [Saturday 5 December](#) into your diaries and start praying for someone that God could help you bring along.

Teaching Kids Gospel Generosity



Our kids and youth are discovering that generosity isn't just for adults—it's for everyone who follows Jesus! Check out what our primary-aged kids are even building - a "Treasure Chest of God's True Riches," celebrating the lasting treasures found in Jesus. It's exciting to see young hearts growing in joyful, gospel-shaped generosity.

What's Coming Up

7 September Alpha
8 September Playtime Alpha
17 September Encounter
20 September All-In Training
27 September MTS Afternoon Tea

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Spiritual Maturity
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Ministry & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Emlyn Hoyt
Ministry Trainee
E: emlyn.hoyt@st-stephens.com.au