



Week 5

Sunday 20 September 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Testimonial Video
- Bible Reading: Acts 4:32-5:11 (p.1094) & 1 Peter 1:3-9 (p.1220)
- Sermon
- Song
- 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.

Welcome! Today we reach the final week of Generosity: God's good plan for the stuff you have. Over these weeks we've seen that generosity begins with God. He gives abundantly, entrusts His gifts to us, teaches us contentment and calls us to give even when people seem undeserving. Today we ask: Where is this generosity expressed? Acts 4 gives us a beautiful picture of the early church. They shared what they had so that no one among them was in need. Their generosity wasn't simply individual acts of kindness—it became a defining feature of their community.

The gospel pushes our generosity beyond ourselves and our immediate family. It draws us into the family of God and into His mission. That's particularly important for us. We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ. One of the ways that beauty becomes visible is when our time, money, homes and abilities are invested in the people and gospel ministry of our local church.



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 27 September. 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 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 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

Heavenly Father,
we praise you for adopting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints... being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

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,
who by your Holy Spirit
have made us living stones in your holy temple:
unite us in love,
make us joyful and sacrificial in our fellowship,
and use our shared generosity
to adorn the gospel of your Son
and advance his kingdom in this place;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Sermon Notes

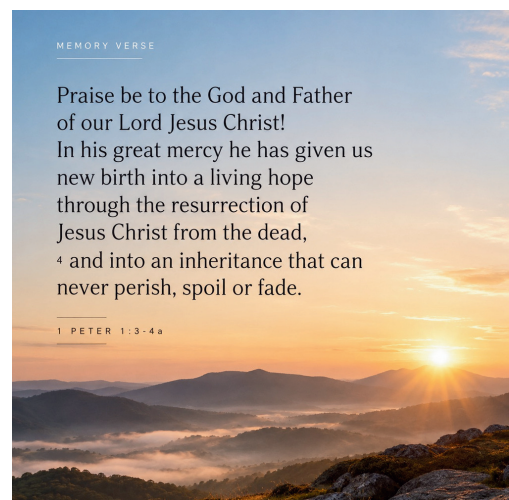
A Generous Community | Acts 4:32-5:11 & 1 Peter 1:3-9

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Radical Generosity

Living in two worlds

Giving in light of the world to come



Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

Looking back over the series, what have we learned about why Christians should be generous?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Acts 4:32-35 (and 2 Corinthians 8:4-5)

1. What do you notice about the unity of the church and their generosity?
2. What do you think makes this generosity radical? (Compare also with the Macedonian church in 2 Corinthians 8:4-5)
3. Reflect on where this kind of generosity stems from (see especially 2 Cor 8:5)

Read Acts 5:1-11 (and Matthew 6:19-24)

4. What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong (v. 3-4, 9)? Why does Peter describe this as lying to the Holy Spirit?
5. From what Jesus says in Matthew 6:19-24, what does our money reveal about our hearts? How does this show us that Ananias & Sapphira weren't making a neutral-financial decision but a decision that reflected what their heart treasured?

Read Acts 4:31-32, 1 Corinthians 3:16, and 1 Peter 2:9-10

6. What are we told happens immediately before the generosity of Acts 4? What comforts you about God working and dwelling in our church by His Holy Spirit?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4

7. What has God given us that can never perish, spoil nor fade? How does this future change the way we hold onto our things now?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

Spend some time bringing the series together before praying together.

Put this on a whiteboard: GRACE -> RENEWAL -> RESPONSE

1. **Grace:** What has God done for me? How has He been extraordinarily generous to me in Christ?

2. **Renewal:** What does His grace need to change in me?
(ie. Trust instead of anxiety, Contentment instead of accumulation, Generosity instead of possessiveness, Grace instead of reciprocity.)

3. **Response:** What might gospel generosity look like for me now? What is one concrete way you could respond to God's generosity from today onwards?

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 – Matthew 6:19-24

Tuesday – Acts 4:31-37

Wednesday – Acts 5:1-11

Thursday – 1 Peter 1:3-9

Friday – 1 Peter 2:4-10

Notices

Join a GaP Group and grow!

“Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.”

— Psalm 1:1-2



What happens to Sunday's sermon on Monday?

In our Gospel and Prayer groups, we return to Sunday's Bible passage and sermon, dig deeper into it, and help each other apply it to how we live.

Take Sunday further by joining a GaP group. Fill out a Connect Card and we'll help you find a group.



Join a GaP Group

Carols 2026: Save the Date

We're shaking things up this year. We're praying for 500 people to join us for Carols on Saturday 5 December. We're stripping back service teams so you can focus on being present on the night, welcoming people, meeting someone new, and introducing your friends to others. Every interaction and every conversation matters. Save the date now, bring your friends, and help our community experience the hope of Jesus together.



Notices

Generosity: Memory Verses



How have you been shaped by our last 5 weeks of reflecting on the topic of Generosity? How do you want to change? Over the course of the series we have had some memory verses. Verses to embed and meditate upon. Perhaps you can start by memorising them and meditating on them throughout the coming months.

Encouraging News from Playtime



Praise God for answering prayers through Playtime! Three people completed our Alpha course, and all three are eager to keep reading the Bible together. We're so thankful that Playtime is helping us love our community not only in practical ways, but also by sharing the hope of the gospel. Please keep praying for these three people and for everyone who attends.

What's Coming Up

21 September Alpha

22 September Playtime Alpha

27 September Newish Morning Tea

27 September MTS Afternoon Tea

28 September Come and See

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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