Callide Valley Presbyterian Church [Biloela & Jambin]

growth groups booklet term 3 2014

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- 3 HONOURING GOD WITH YOUR BODY
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THE TRUE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL...



A walk around some of the archaeological sites in Corinth will quickly reveal that this was a big and impressive city in the ancient world. With numerous large temples, and public buildings that display exceptional craftsmanship, a large functional port facility, and considerable use of water features, we can easily understand that Corinth was the centre of business and trade in this part of the Roman Empire. With consistently well defined areas for entertainment, markets, government, court hearings, education, exercise, and worship, we find in ancient Corinth, an advanced society of people with a well defined class structure and legal system.

Christians who lived and moved about in cities like Corinth had to make difficult decisions all the time. In the Corinthian context – life was no simpler back then than it is today. If anything, our lives today are simpler – we certainly have less things to worry about!! Christianity faced numerous issues in the first century, not only because the Roman government of the day was initially hostile, but also because there were so many other things 'competing' for the attention of the Christian person. Lifestyle, and keeping up with the rich and famous would have been a big consideration, and this is evident in both of Paul's letters to the church in Corinth. The considerable opportunities for business in the region would have preoccupied many people in the city, and travel associated with local and regional trade would have been high on many people's agenda. The considerable variety of other religions in the city is very noticeable, and there is also evidence in their art and literature of a degree of sexual promiscuity in the community.

Paul's own interaction with the upper classes of society, and the encouragement and example that he was to other Christians to have similar interactions, paved the way for Christianity becoming the predominant religion of the Roman Empire by the second century. Knowing that people like Erastus, Phoebe, and other members of upper class society were part of the early church shows how from the very outset, the church reached all sections of the community, as it still does today. Paul demonstrates to us that it is important to interact in significant ways with the upper 'crust' of society – something that it is well worth noting for our modern-day ministries. An effective church will have significant interactions with all levels of the community, including its leaders. We can particularly note at the end of Romans that Luke reports "the gospel message went out 'unhindered', as a result of Paul's interactions with various emperors, proconsuls, and court officials. Something we would be wise to take note of today.

As we take a look at the first letter to the Corinthians this term, we will see how Paul approached many issues that faced the early church in this city. His approach to these issues speaks volumes into our own Christian lives here in the Callide Valley in the 21st century.

...about this study booklet...

- the studies in this booklet link into the sermon series at church (the dates of the talks are listed on the front cover), with each study following the talk by the same title. This approach enables group time to be spent digging deeper into the Bible text and to discuss issues or questions raised by the talk. Importantly, it also enables your group to have a strong focus upon application, sharing, accountability and prayer. Our groups are not just about information but transformation.
- we aim to provide a copy of this study booklet to every regular attender at church whether you've been with us for only a few weeks or for many years. We would love everyone to be involved in one of our Growth Groups and do the studies in that context. You can read more about the groups and find out how to get involved in one in the coming weeks at church.
- If you are presently unable to be part of one of our Growth Groups we hope you will still be able to set aside time to work through the weekly studies. And we would also like to link you to a Growth Group as a point of contact in times of need. The group can also pray for you and look out for you. In a growing church having all our regular attenders in a Growth Group, or at least linked to one in this way, is a key way we can care for everyone involved.
- You will notice as you look through the opening pages that there is a lot more to this booklet than the studies alone. It is also a key way, each term, you can find out more about what is happening across our various church ministries. This helps us all not only stay informed but also able to pray meaningfully for the ministries and life of our church family. Some of the prayer points in each study will refer you back to the various ministry articles for that reason.



"Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1Co 1:7-9 NIV)

It takes about 50 mins to read through the first letter to the Church in Corinth. Doing that would be a great exercise in preparation for our series "The True Light of the Gospel". Here are some questions to think about as you read...

- 1. What do we learn about the issues that the Corinthian Church was facing?
- 2. What does the letter tell us about Jesus?
- 3. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in the letter?
- 4. How would you summarise the letter in a sentence or two?
- 5. What challenges/encouragements does the first letter to the Corinthians offer us living as Christians today?

young adults

If you're between 17 and 35 and want to spend time with other young Christians in Biloela come and check out an exciting new ministry called **Cross Connect**. We'll be meeting every Sunday evening of term 3, and opening the bible with other young Christians from around the Callide Valley.

We will begin the term meeting at the Presbyterian Manse (church house) at 19 Gerard Street, from 7pm each Sunday night. If you are a young adult looking for Christian fellowship, then this is for you! Please be sure to let us know if you need a lift to and from 'Cross Connect' and we will try and sort out some transport arrangements for you.

We hope you can join us for another encouraging term as we take a tour of the Old Testament together. Over the course of eight studies we will seek to develop a 'big picture' understanding of the Old Testament. This will help us to see how all of scripture points us to the man Jesus Christ, and calls us into relationship with Him.



getting more out of your studies

- READ the relevant passage **before** the Sunday talk (and look through the investigate questions). Wrestling with God's Word for yourself before hearing the talk will help you to get much more out of it.
- PREPARE the study questions **before** your Growth Group meeting. You'll be in a better position to serve others in your group through thought out contributions. If everyone in the group prepares in this way, it will be easier to dig deeper, and to devote more time to application and prayer.
- PRAY for those teaching the Word; for those leading groups; for other members of your group; and for yourself—that your attitude will be focused on serving others, and growing in knowledge and love of Jesus our Lord.



kick off

this question just gets us talking about the broad subject of the study before we see what God's word says about it.



key verse

it's helpful to find one verse that sums up the whole passage we're looking at. Try memorising some of these verses through the term.



big idea

gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



investigate

draws out what the Bible text is actually saying. Stay looking at the Bible as you answer them, and refer to verses in your answer.



digging deeper

gives you the chance to chase up the big idea in other parts of the Bible, especially if your group prepares ahead and covers the main set passage faster.



think & apply

is where the rubber hits the road: applying it to our lives. Doing studies linked to the Sunday talks allows more time to be devoted to this vital step.



training

is an opportunity to re-inforce what we have learnt in the study through various practical exercises. Don't be afraid to have some fun and give it a go.



prayer

is a key part of how we respond to listening to God in his word together—by talking to him together. It's a key part of our ministry to each other.



church events

reminds us that we're part of a church family, and that there are many other opportunities to meet together and spur one another on in following Jesus.



family discussion

provides a question for a family to discuss together—and an opportunity to share with our children what we are learning—ideal for Monday morning breakfast.

reading ahead

gives you a reminder of what's coming up next week. You'll serve your

your growth group

your Growth Group is a place where you get to:

connect significantly with a regular group of friends

grow in Christian faith and love; and

serve one another in word and action

... of course, the key ingredient in all that happening... is being there! But that's only the first step. A helpful small group member is one who:

prepares the study beforehand;

shares their answers as well as their life; and

listens thoughtfully and actively to what others

have to say

How about committing yourself to the other members of your group by being there each week and doing these three crucial things?

your leaders

your small group leaders are appointed each year by the Session. They are carefully chosen to lead Growth Groups, because first and foremost, they care about your progress as a growing follower of Jesus. We're also confident that they care about working hard at understanding and applying God's word to their own lives. They take part in Leaders Meetings throughout the year, previewing the studies, being equipped for their role, and giving feedback on how each group is travelling. Leaders will also seek pastoral input from our Session when they feel they need advice in how to best care for group members in particular situations. Please value and care for your leaders as they care for you!

Keep these words in mind from Hebrews 13:17...

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

We encourage everyone from Callide Valley to consider joining a Growth Group. If you would like to find out more please contact Andrew Purcell on 0439 510 500 or lan Wilkie on 0407 156 543.

Our Elders

Our Elders meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. They are responsible for the spiritual health and wellbeing of our congregations here in the Callide Valley.

Our Elders are:

Ivan Shepherdson (07) 4992 3342

- lan Wilkie (07) 4992 5559
- Phillip Wilkie (07) 4992 1716
- John Semgreen (07) 4996 5215

Ivan is also our Session Clerk.

It is our plan to have one of our elders be in regular contact with you through the course of the year to support you and your family in your Christian walk.

Our Minister

2014 will be the second year of ministry in the Callide Valley for our minister Andrew Purcell. Andrew completed his studies in 2012 at the Queensland Theological College (QTC). Andrew is married to Kerri and has four children—John, Mark, Timothy and Claire.



committee of management

The Committee of Management (CoM) is a ministry that consists of a team of dedicated members of the congregation who manage the daily operations of the Church. The primary function of the CoM is to manage, in a responsible manner, the financial and property aspects of the church. This includes preparing annual budgets and financial statements of the church and managing the ongoing maintenance of the church building and grounds including the Pelican Point campsite. Our team for 2014 was elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday 23rd February 2014.

This Year's Committee is made up of...

Gavin Warmington (Secretary)
Ivan Shepherdson
John Semgreen
Raymond Wilkie
Greg Holzhauser
Alex Mathieson
Bill Setch
Karen Hutton
Lyn Wilkie
Daniel Boal
Jason Dunne (Treasurer)
Andrew Purcell

The Committee really does need the support of the congregation throughout the year to perform its duties well. We believe that the congregation can really support one another by having a giving heart, with both time and money, to see us work to our potential.

We all have a role to play, we are a team and a family. Whether you are the Minister, member of the session, member of the management committee, music team, or congregation member, we all have a role that we can play.

Our church has an immense capacity, but it also needs the finances and willing workers to support it. Do you want to be part of that?

my giving @ Callide Valley?

We all know the theory: that we should give money to support God's work in our local church, and further afield. This issue arises over and over again through Mark's gospel, with Jesus' challenge to "deny ourselves" and to "take up or cross" (Mark 8:34). It is a challenge to value eternal things above earthly things, and to put all we have, including our money into service of the Lord Jesus. The aim of these couple of pages is to help you work out what this means in practice. It will help you to evaluate (or re-evaluate):

- 1. the amount you would like to give, based on biblical principles
- 2. where you would like this amount to be directed;
- 3. the mechanics of how you would like this to happen.



step 1: how much to give?

the principle

In the OLD TESTAMENT, God's people gave a tenth of all their produce to God in response to his generous blessings to them ('the tithe'). The idea of giving a tenth is first seen in Abraham and Jacob (Genesis 14, 28), and is then spelt out in the Law of Moses. It was to be given generously with much rejoicing, not legalistically or begrudgingly (Numbers 18; Deuteronomy 12, 14 & 26; 2 Chronicles 31; Malachi 3). Having received the tithe from Israel, God then redirects it to his work: to the priests and Levites, as well as to those in need, such as widows and orphans.

As New Testament believers, we are still to give back to God in response to his generous blessings. Indeed, we have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9)!

So how much should we give to God? A tenth is a good *STARTING POINT*, but it should be the starting point for considering how generous we can be, rather than a legalistic figure we must limit ourselves to. The more fundamental question to ponder is: how much have we received from God?

in practice

- work out how much money you have to start with (your income)
- prayerfully consider how much you would like to set aside from this amount to give (as a weekly amount).
- this process of working out how much to give will of course need to be repeated each year or so, or as your income changes.

step 2: to whom to give?

the principle

In the OLD TESTAMENT, the Israelite tithe was directed by God to those who needed it: to the priests & Levites who had no other source of income because of their duties, and to the poor.

We see a similar pattern in the *NEW TESTAMENT*, where Christian giving is directed to meeting the needs of those who labour amongst us in the Lord, as well as towards the poor. As Paul puts it in Galatians 6: "anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" and: "as we have opportunity, let us

in practice

In practical terms, this means directing our money not only towards Callide Valley, but to the work of the gospel further afield (e.g. the Bible Society), and to the poor (e.g. TEAR fund). It is exciting however that already part of our giving is redirected beyond ourselves to world mission. As you give week by week you are supporting our gospel mission both locally and overseas.

Callide Valley

The ministry of the Biloela and Jambin Presbyterian Churches is funded from our regular giving week by week, and a large proportion of our gift should go towards supporting this ministry. We'll leave you to work out the details of what a 'large proportion' might mean in practice. This giving supports all our work of the gospel, including:

- our minister and his family
- our ministries to men, women, young adults, youth and children
- our supported missionaries (including PIM)
- production of calendars, directories, bible study material, etc
- our ministry facilities (including upkeep of Pelican Point)

step 3: how to give?

Commit yourself to being consistent in giving the amount you worked out in Step 1 through the weekly collection at church or, if possible, through electronic giving...

electronic giving

Electronic giving is a wonderful way to not only decide upon a generous figure to give each week but to be consistent in following through on that decision of generosity, as the funds are consistently given week by week. Please see below for the account details.

envelopes

- the envelopes work on a weekly basis & are anonymous
- weekly giving envelopes will be distributed each term (simply return them if you give electronically).

Our generosity through weekly giving is how we grow present ministries and start future ministries. At Callide Valley, we approach our church finances from the point of view of not wanting to getting bogged down in fundraising activities, and not having lots of separate charges (e.g. for tea & coffee, bible study material, kids ministry materials, etc). Instead, we support and grow our ministries simply through our weekly giving. This means we rely on the generosity of our regulars week by week to support and grow our ministries. Please prayerfully consider your role in this.

We have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who "though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich" 2 Corinthians 8:9

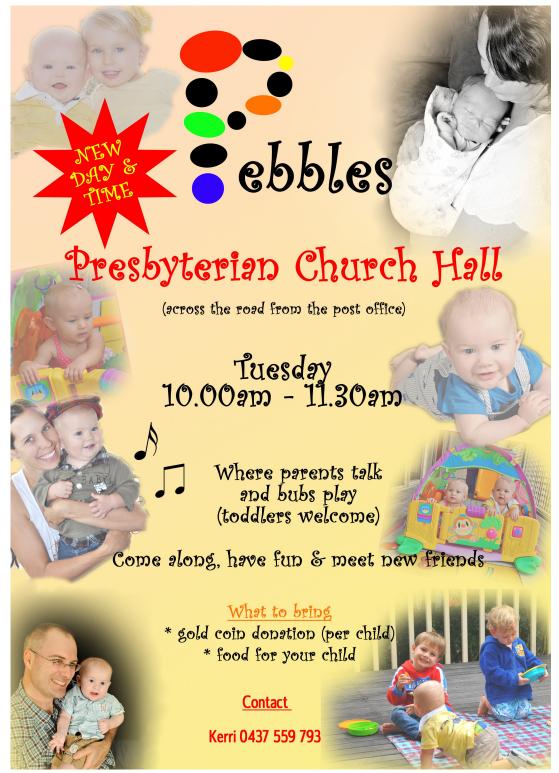
If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability! 2 Corinthians 8:3

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank** BSB: **064 701** Account Number: 00900325

Account Name: Callide Valley Presbyterian Church Committee

Sunday School, Creche & Pebbles...

We are very excited this term to be able to offer Sunday School, Creche and a weekly playgroup to our young families called "Pebbles". This will take plenty of hard work as we run games and fun activities for the kids, work in the kitchen, help set up rooms, pray for kids and families, prepare craft, think up craft, proof read curriculums, file, post letters, work on spreadsheets, pray for leaders, help with registrations, welcome parents, remind us all to sign in and out, make coffee, play with kids, sing, laugh, clean up, wash little hands, set up sound and data, write notes to parents, listen to kids, colour in, send e-mails, laugh at the minister's bad jokes, move furniture, pray with kids, and all the rest...



We are really looking forward to teaching our kids more about Jesus this term, and we hope you are too...

youth

As we embark on term 3, let's hear from one of our youth leaders



Your name? Andrew Purcell

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Sydney, and grew up on a farm near Cootamundra in NSW.

What are your passions?

I like fishing, gardening, camping, photography, fossicking for gemstones, and restoring old garden tools. I spend as much time as possible fishing, but also like to go on holidays and visit new places.

How long have you been doing youth?

I have been involved with kids and youth ministries since about 2005 when we first moved to Charleville in QLD.

What is your role?

I'm a leader of one of our Primary School groups, oh, and I'm also the minister.

What is the hardest thing about doing youth ministry?

Engaging with the next generation in ways that they can identify with and understand. I find this takes a fair bit of effort and can leave you feeling quite 'zapped' of energy by the end of the night.

What keeps you doing youth ministry?

Youth Ministry is really important in the life of the church because it is where we have an opportunity to teach young people about Jesus. The earlier in life someone becomes a Christian, the sooner they will experience all the positive benefits of being a child of God, and the sooner they'll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us to live in this world.

Please keep praying for all youth leaders

Selma Dredge Lenette Witham Angela Borg Raymond Wilkie Ian Wilkie Lyn Wilkie Gavin Warmington Cassandra Warmington Kirstin Boal Daniel Boal Nigel Kruger

Lyn Webb Michael Witham Danielle Witham Luke Briese Lucas Steger Emma Campbell

Changing the World One Disciple at a Time

missionaries of the month

Each month here in the Callide Valley we will focus on one of the missionaries or missionary organisations our church supports. For a little more information about them, pick up a flyer about them from the foyer or check out their website listed below.

July: Quiz Worx

Mission Statement

Quiz Worx exists to:

- * Share the message of Jesus from the Bible to kids, especially within state schools.
- * Minister to Christian children within the wider Christian community.

* Resource others, especially those working in SRE in state schools, in their ministry to children.

The primary purpose of Quiz Worx is to share Jesus with kids who do not personally know Jesus. As such, a large proportion of their work occurs in schools (both state and private).

They also are involved in a number of discipleship ministries to children. This occurs through church services, church camps and conferences.

Training people in faithful and creative children's ministry is yet another aspect that Quiz Worx takes seriously. Spending a whole day training locals to share Jesus with the kids in their own areas is a great privilege.

Since 2008 Quiz Worx has also expanded its ministry to include creating cutting edge resources for children's ministry. This includes music, comics, and video downloads. Website: www.quizworx.com

August: Wycliffe Bible Translators (Keith & Elspeth Campbell).

As our departure date draws near (mid-August), it is tempting to wonder if everything can fall into place in time...

Where your treasure is...

Elspeth

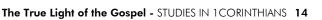
I never thought of myself as having earthly treasures, but finalising things for PNG in August has been emotionally hard and surprising to me. In our 24 years of marriage, we moved many times and held many garage sales that ensured I didn't get attached to 'stuff'. Elisabeth and Shawn are now living in our house in Townsville while we're in PNG. I've asked Elisabeth to go through the house which she has and now Keith and I are sorting out what happens next.

Somehow I feel that packing up the house is final, a way of saying goodbye to my old life. After our initial two years in PNG in the Lord's service, we'll return and I'm not sure if I am prepared for the changes that may eventuate in myself. How different will I be? How differently will I view my stored goods (earthly treasures)? Occasionally, all this uncertainty overwhelms me, but I don't want to be like Lot's wife who looked back hankering after what has been left behind. I want to look forward to what lies ahead - the prize that does not rust, is never stolen, not moth-eaten, etc. (Matthew 6v19).

The final hurdle...

To keep you updated, partners have gifted or pledged 66% of the \$3,167 monthly support required. If you are able to commit to partner with us financially, either through a one-off gift, or monthly pledge, please let us know. You can contact us directly, or make arrangements through the finance team at Wycliffe Australia.

Keith & Elspeth Campbell E: keith-elspeth_campbell@wbt.org T: 0431 181 441 (Keith) 0431 489 176 (Elspeth) See http://campbellramblings.wordpress.com/ for more information





The Parenting Course - Biloela

The Parenting Children Course is for any parents, step-parents, prospective parents or carers of children aged 0 - 10 years. We will be running the course on a Thursday evening beginning the 14th August. The course runs over five evening sessions and will conclude on Thursday the 11th of September.

Why do the course?

- Children do not arrive with an instruction manual
- No role we undertake is more important than parenting

Family life is under great pressure today and parents face bewildering choices about how to parent effectively. Discovering we are not alone in the challenges we face and picking up ideas from other parents can make a huge difference. We can all learn how to make even the happiest family better.

Nicky and Sila Lee have worked with couples and families for over 20 years and speak regularly on parenting. They are co-authors of 'The Marriage Book' and they also lead The Marriage Course, The Marriage Preparation Course and The Parenting Teenagers Course.







Christian Unity



At a six-year old's Pirate birthday party, what happens when all the kids want to be the pirate captain?



1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.



Christians are called to live together in unity because of what Jesus has done for us all.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

- 1. Who is this letter written to?
- 2. What does Paul offer in verse 3?
- 3. What does Paul thank God for? What have the people been given?



4. What does the future hold for the Christians Paul is writing to, and why can they be confident of that future?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 1:10-17

5. What is the problem in the church at Corinth that Paul is addressing?



6. What is wrong with what the Corinthians are doing and saying?

7. Why has Paul been sent out as a Missionary by Jesus? Does this have any significance for Christian ministry today?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

8. What is the main point of what Paul is saying in vv. 18-25?



Read ACTS 18:1-18.

How did God use Paul to build his church in Corinth?



9. How does the gospel 'upstage' Greek wisdom and make a 'spectacle' of man's thinking?

10. What do you notice about the WAY God chooses his people? (Why does he do it this way—what is his purpose?)

11. Explain in your own words what verse 30 means. (What is Paul saying to Christians here?)



12. Looking back over the chapter, what were the Christians in Corinth boasting about? What does Paul tell them to do?

13. What brings Christians together in unity?



14. Are the Christians you know living in unity with one another? How could this be improved here in the Callide/Dawson Valley?

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends

Aug 26

Aug 31

Sep 13

Sep 16

Sep 18

Oct 6

Oct 7

Oct 11

Oct 12

Oct 16

Oct 21

Sep 19-21

Session Meeting

Men's Breakfast

Session Meeting

CoM Meeting

Public Holiday

Men's Breakfast

Lord's Supper

CoM Meeting

Session Meeting

Combined Service (Presy)

Family Camp Pelican Pt

VIP-Net Leader's Meeting



July 12 Men's Breakfast July 15 VIP-Net Leader's Meeting July 15 Session Meeting July 17 CoM Meeting July 24 Open Doors 7.30pm Aug 2 Big Day In—Rocky PC Aug 9 Men's Breakfast Aug 10 Lord's Supper Aug 14 Parenting Course Begins Aug 21 CoM Meeting Aug 23 Pelican Point Working Bee Aug 24 **Pelican Point Service**



How can we encourage Christian unity in our own family?

Pray that we would remember God's promises to us (vv.8-9).



1 Corinthians 1:31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." (NIV)

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for sending Jesus into our world to speak to us.

Pray that we would remember how important his message of salvation really is.

Praise God for his grace given to us in Christ Jesus.

pray also

for the ministry of our Growth Groups

for Paul Smith and his work in the Philippines. Pray that the gospel will continue to go out in that country.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 Corinthians 2-4



Trusting God, Not Men



Have you ever shown up at an event or function at the wrong time based on the incorrect advice from someone? What could you have done to avoid this?



1 Corinthians 2:4-5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.



God reveals true wisdom about himself by his Spirit.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

1. Why do you think Paul says that he didn't come to them in eloquence, that he knew nothing, he came in fear, and he didn't teach them with wise and persuasive words? (Why would Paul mention these things?)

2. Instead of the things mentioned above, what <u>did</u> Paul's teaching come with and why? (c.f. Acts 19:11-12)

READ 1CORINTHIANS 2:6-16

3. What is the 'Wisdom of this age', and how is it different to the wisdom Paul speaks of?

4. What does Paul tell us in vv.12-14? Do these things still apply to the wisdom of our age?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 3:1-23

5. What is the key issue in the church that Paul addresses (esp. v.21)?

6. What does Paul say to put this issue to rest (vv. 6-7)?



7. When Paul says each of us is 'like a builder' what's he talking about, and what is his warning in v15 referring to?

8. What are we to be careful not to be deceived by? How can we avoid this in our church—who is going to be more vulnerable to the deception?



READ 1CORINTHIANS 4:1-13

9. What should the Corinthians attitude to Paul be? (v.1)

10. How do verses 1-7 help us to think about teaching the gospel and to remember the responsibilities of teachers and preachers?



Read about wisdom in the book of Proverbs...

Read Proverbs Chapters 1-4

What is the beginning of knowledge?

What are some of the benefits and positive outcomes of gaining wisdom?



11. Why has Paul endured incredible hardship for the gospel (vv.9-13)? What is he saying to the church at this point?

12. Why does Paul want the Corinthians to imitate him?

13. What will Timothy do when he comes to Corinth and why will this be important?

14. What does Paul say about the kingdom of God in v.20? Why do you think he says this?

15. What are some things we can be doing to ensure we put our faith and trust in God and not men?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends



Big Day In—Rocky PC Aug 2 Men's Breakfast Aug 9 Aug 10 Lord's Supper Aug 14 Parenting Course Begins Aug 21 CoM Meeting Aug 23 Pelican Point Working Bee Aug 24 Pelican Point Service Aug 26 Session Meeting Aug 31 Combined Service (Presy) Sep 13 Men's Breakfast

- Sep 16
- Sep 18 CoM Meeting
- Session Meeting

- Sep 19-21 Oct 6
- Oct 7
- Oct 11

Oct 12

- Oct 16
- Oct 21

Lord's Supper CoM Meeting Session Meeting

Family Camp Pelican Pt

VIP-Net Leader's Meeting

Public Holiday

Men's Breakfast



1 Corinthians 2:9-10 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- ¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

praise God that Christ came among us and shared our humanity so that he could release us from the power of the evil one.

confess that we often take our eyes off Jesus and are enticed by the messages of the world. Pray that we would fix our thoughts on Jesus and not put our trust in men.

ask God to show us how we can boast about the 'courage and hope we have' in Jesus (3v6).

pray also

for Pebbles (our ministry to parents and babies) (see page 12)

for the PIM - and particularly David and Kathy Alsop in the Central QLD Patrol.



What are some ways we can be tempted to trust in men and not God?

Pray that we'd remember that our God loves us so much that he reveals to us true spiritual wisdom and knowledge.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 Corinthians 5-6



Honouring God with your



When we want to display something special in our house, how do we prepare it for display?



1 Corinthians 5:7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.



We are to remember that we belong to God, and that our bodies are for serving him.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 5:1-5

1. What is the report Paul has heard, and what is his response to the report?

2. How should the church respond and why?

3. What happens when all the people are assembled (v.4)?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 5:6-13

4. As if the situation is not already bad enough, what have the Corinthian Christians been doing (v.6)?

5. Paul talks about 'old yeast' and getting rid of it. What does he mean. Is this important for all Christians, or just the Corinthians?

6. In the illustration, what is the 'bread of sincerity and truth'? What is Paul talking about here - what should they do?



7. Why aren't we to associate with sexually immoral people within the church?

8. What does Paul indicate about those 'outside the church'? Should we associate with them?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 6:1-11

9. What does Paul advise about disputes between Christians within the church?



Read what the Old Testament Law (God's Law) says about adultery...

Exodus 20:14

Deuteronomy 5:18

Leviticus 20:7-10

10. What is the deception that Paul is speaking about here? What do we need to be careful of?



11. What do Jesus and the Holy Spirit do with our sins (v.11)? Why might it be important to know and remember this?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

- 12. a) What are our bodies meant for? b) What is the result of the immoral activity Paul describes?
- 13. In v.18 what is the serious reality about sexual immorality?
- 14. Why should we honour God with our bodies at all times?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends

Oct 6

Oct 7

Oct 11

Oct 12

Oct 16

Oct 21

How can we use our bodies to bring glory and honour to God?



Aug 9 Men's Breakfast Aug 10 Lord's Supper Aug 14 Parenting Course Begins Aug 21 CoM Meeting Pelican Point Working Bee Aug 23 Aug 24 Pelican Point Service Aug 26 Session Meeting Aug 31 Combined Service (Presy) Sep 13 Men's Breakfast Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Family Camp Pelican Pt Sep 19-21

Public Holiday VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Men's Breakfast Lord's Supper CoM Meeting Session Meeting



1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

praise God that in Christ we can keep looking ahead with hope as we live in relationship with Him.

Thank God that his son Jesus continues with us in ministry and remains our firm foundation to the end, despite our own inadequacies.

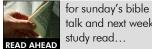
pray also

for our elders and our minister as they lead our church (see page 8)

for the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) and their work with Arab and Muslim peoples around the world.



Pray that we will do this!!



talk and next week's study read...

1 Corinthians 7



Marriage and Ministry



Can you describe a time when your marriage had an impact on your ministry/church life?



1 Corinthians 7:32-34a I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. ³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife-- ³⁴ and his interests are divided.



Marriage comes with responsibilities and these will impact your capacity for ministry and your church life.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 7:1-7

1. It seems the Corinthians have written to Paul to ask his advice on some situations in marriage. What advice does Paul give them in vv.1-3?

2. What does Paul indicate about our bodies in terms of the marriage relationship? How are we to avoid temptation?

3. What gift does Paul have that he refers to here in v.7 ?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 7:8-24

4. In what situations does Paul counsel people to marry and why?

5. What does Paul say is the sanctifying effect of having a Christian in the marriage/in the family (v.14)?

6. What is Paul talking about in vv.15-16?

7. What is the 'rule' that Paul is talking about, and where does he seek to apply that rule?



READ 1CORINTHIANS 7:25-40

8. What might be the 'present crisis' that Paul mentions in v.26? How would this affect marriage?

9. Paul talks about married people having worldly concerns. What concerns are they (vv.32-35)?





How does God set up marriage in the Old Testament?

See especially—Genesis, & Leviticus.

10. What are unmarried Christians to be concerned about?



- 11. Why does Paul say it is better NOT to be married? Is he correct?
- 12. According to Paul, what breaks the bond of marriage?
- 13. What have you learnt about Christian marriage from this study?

14. What have you learnt about Christian ministry and Christian living from this study?



1 Corinthians 7:17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

praise God for the institution of marriage and the gift of children

Pray that we will have a clear understanding of our marriage responsibilities and our relationship with God

pray also

for our youth ministry (see pages 13 & 17)

for the Far East Broadcasting Company as they to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world by radio. (They particularly seek to reach listeners who because of political, ideological, physical or geographical boundaries are unlikely to hear the message of Jesus in any other way)



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends



Aug 10 Lord's Supper Aug 14 Parenting Course Begins Aug 21 CoM Meeting Aug 23 Pelican Point Working Bee Pelican Point Service Aug 24 Aug 26 Session Meeting Aug 31 Combined Service (Presy) Sep 13 Men's Breakfast Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Sep 19-21 Family Camp Pelican Pt Oct 6 **Public Holiday**

Oct 7 Oct 11 Oct 12 Oct 16 Oct 21

- VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Men's Breakfast Lord's Supper CoM Meeting
- Session Meeting



for revision of this series re-read...

1 Corinthians 8-10

FAMILY DISCUSSION How many people in your family are married, and how many are not?...

Pray that we would continue to encourage both the married and unmarried people in our church.



Avoiding Idolatry



What is idolatry? What are some typical examples in modern Australia?



1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.



We are to flee from idolatry and worship God alone.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

1. What does Paul say 'we know' about God and idols?

2. Does food bring us nearer to God? What is the issue here? (c.f. vv.11-12)

3. Is there anything that we do ourselves that may cause a fellow Christian believer to fall into sin? (If so, what ought we do about it?)



READ 1CORINTHIANS 9:1-14

4. What illustrations does Paul use to demonstrate his 'rights' as an apostle?



5. What does Paul do in the case of the Corinthians ? Why does he forego his rights as an apostle.

6. Do we tend to demand our 'rights' among members of our Christian family? (Or do we make decisions and bear with harsh circumstances for the sake of the gospel?)



7. How would you describe Paul's approach to Christian living (vv. 19-23)?

8. What does Paul's illustration about the runner say to you (vs 24-27)?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

9. How did the forefathers of Israel FAIL to run the race as Paul describes in 1Corinthians 9:24-27 ?



read Exodus 20:4-6 and Exodus 20:22-23

What does it mean when men bow down to things in creation?

Read Isaiah 40:18-31

What are people choosing between when they worship God or they worship idols?



10. We saw in Hebrews last term, that Old Testament examples are for OUR benefit. What Old Testament examples does Paul say are for our benefit, and what do they teach us (vv. 6-13) ?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 10:14-33



11. Why does Paul say we should flee from idolatry (esp. vv.14-22)?

12. What should be our main aim in avoiding idolatry (vv. 31-33).

13. What does Paul say about salvation? How can we work at having a similar attitude to Paul? (see 10:32-33; 9:22-23; 11:1)



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends



Aug 21 CoM Meeting Pelican Point Working Bee Aug 23 Aug 24 **Pelican Point Service** Aug 26 Session Meeting Aug 31 Combined Service (Presy) Sep 13 Men's Breakfast Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Sep 19-21 Family Camp Pelican Pt Oct 6 **Public Holiday** Oct 7 VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Oct 11 Men's Breakfast

Oct 12 Lord's Supper Oct 16 CoM Meeting Oct 21

Session Meeting



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 Corinthians 11



1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Pray that we would grasp how great it is that the Levitical priesthood is no longer required, and that we have everything we need in Jesus.

ask God to help us to have renewed faith in Jesus.

pray also

for the ministry of our Committee of Management (see page 9)

for our school chaplains: Nigel Kruger (High School), Lyn Webb (State Primary School), Selma Dredge (District Schools), and Katrina Witham (District Schools).



What are some of the temptations your family faces?

Pray that God will help us stand firm when we are being tempted.



Honourable Worship



What does an employee code of conduct usually include? How would it be similar/how would it be different to the way we conduct ourselves at church?



1 Corinthians 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



We are to worship God honourably in the way he determines in Jesus.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 11:1-16

1. What does Paul commend and praise the Corinthians for in verse 2? How will that help them follow his advice in verse 1?

2. What is Paul's aim and agenda for the instructions he gives in vv.3-16?

3. DO these instructions still make sense for worship today?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 11:17-26

4. In verse 2, Paul praises the Corinthians for their actions. What is Paul's feeling about the way they conduct the Lord's Supper together (v.17) ?



5. What does Paul say about their version of the Lord's Supper (vv.21-22)?

6. What is the Lord's Supper meant to be like? What is its purpose (vv. 25 -26)?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 11:27-33

7.What is the 'unworthy' manner of participating in the Lord's Supper that Paul is talking about? Is this an issue in our church today? What is the problem with celebrating in this way (v.27) ?



8. What problems has the Corinthian's version of the Lord's Supper caused in the church ?



How does God set up worship in the Old Testament?

Skim - Read Exodus 25-40

What does Jesus say about worship in John 4:23?...



9. What advice does Paul give about their Lord's Supper practices (vv.31-32)?

10. What does God's judgment on his people result in (v.32)?

11. What is the 'more honourable' way to participate in the Lord's Supper? (v.33)

12. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper/Communion in our church, what is it that we are celebrating and remembering?



13. Are we celebrating the Lord's Supper in an honourable way in our church? Are we acting in accordance with the gospel, is there anything we could improve?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends

Oct 21

Session Meeting



Aug 24	Pelican Point Service
Aug 26	Session Meeting
Aug 31	Combined Service (Presy)
Sep 13	Men's Breakfast
Sep 16	Session Meeting
Sep 18	CoM Meeting
Sep 19-21	Family Camp Pelican Pt
Oct 6	Public Holiday
Oct 7	VIP-Net Leader's Meeting
Oct 11	Men's Breakfast
Oct 12	Lord's Supper
Oct 16	CoM Meeting



How often do we celebrate the Lord's Supper? What are we meant to remember when we celebrate?

Pray that we might serve God in all things (Heb 9:14).



1 Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he

praise God that we have been given the new covenant, and that his laws are written on our hearts and in our minds.

Pray that we would follow Paul's example, as he follows the example of Christ.

ask God to help us to stand firm in the gospel, and to remember that we are a part of a ministry that is superior to any other.

pray also

for our young adults

for the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.



1 Corinthians 12-13



Many Good Gifts



What is one of the most significant gifts your parents or family have given you and why?



1 Corinthians 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.



God gives us good gifts so that we can serve him. We should understand how these gifts work so we can use them properly.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

1. How does God give us gifts (vv.4, 7-8, 11)?



2. How many different gifts are listed here? What kind of gifts are they? (What are they useful for?)

3. Why would God want us to know how spiritual gifts are given, and that there are many different ones?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

4. Paul says the church is like a body. What is the key thing for us to remember (vv. 20, 24, 25)?

5. Paul says we're each a part of the body of Christ. Who appoints us to our roles and how ?

6. How evident are the different spiritual gifts in people in our own congregation? How can we encourage others to use their gifts?



READ 1CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

- 7. What is important about love?
- 8. How does it help our spiritual gifting?
- 9. According to Paul, what things does love do? (List them!)



Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

What does this passage tell us about spiritual gifts and blessings from God? 10. How will love help people in a church that has divisions like the one in first century Corinth?



11. What does Paul say are the three virtues that will stay with us, and which ones seem to fall away?

12. In your own words—explain how we are meant to use our Spiritual gifts that God has given us by his Holy Spirit.



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Unbelieving friends



Combined Service (Presy) Aug 31 Sep 13 Men's Breakfast Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Sep 19-21 Family Camp Pelican Pt Oct 6 Public Holiday Oct 7 VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Oct 11 Men's Breakfast Oct 12 Lord's Supper Oct 16 CoM Meeting Oct 21 Session Meeting



What can we do to encourage one another in Jesus? What are we each good at? (Each person should have a different answer!!).

Pray that we would remember that God gives us Spiritual gifts for a reason.



1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

praise God that he has given each of us Spiritual gifts to be used among the community of believers.

Pray that we would recognise our Spiritual gifts and use them to benefit others.

ask God to help us to continue to stand firm in the gospel, and to do his will, especially in tough situations

pray also

for our music ministry and all those in our church who serve the Lord in this way

for Inside/Out Chaplaincy (formerly CCC) as they continue to minister in word and in deed to prisoners across our state.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

1 Corinthians 14



Encouraging Worship



What are some of the different ways we remind ourselves of the gospel among the community of believers?



1 Corinthians 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.



God wants us to worship him in an orderly way and clearly communicate the truth of the gospel to outsiders.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 14:1-12

1. What is the difference between 'speaking in tongues' and 'prophesying' (vv.1-5)?

2. What is Paul's illustration in vv. 7-9 about? What does this tell us about the purpose of our church gathering?

3. What is Paul's main point in vv.10-12? What gifts do we each possess that can be used to build up the church - discuss.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 14:13-25

4. What's the issue Paul identifies in vv. 16-17? In what situations might our own church cause similar issues among those attending church?

5. What is the desired result when a non-Christian encounters people prophesying? Why doesn't this work if people are praying in tongues?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 14:26-40

6. What kinds of speaking ministries does Paul expect to be in a church gathering? Why should these be done (v.26)?

7. Whether speaking in tongues or prophesying $\,$ - why should it be done in a controlled way $\,$?

8. What happens when these things are not done in a controlled way (v23)?

9. Verses 33-35 see quite harsh towards women. What do you think Paul is saying here and why ?



read Isaiah 28:11 -12

What is going on here in Isaiah?

Why does Paul quote this part of the Old Testament in his letter?



10. In your own words, why is it important that things be done in a fitting and orderly way? (See v. 12, 17, 33, 39-40).

11. From this study - what seems to be the most important thing about worship and why?



1 Corinthians 14:39

Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Unbelieving friends



Sep 13 Men's Breakfast Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Sep 19-21 Family Camp Pelican Pt Oct 6 **Public Holiday** Oct 7 VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Oct 11 Men's Breakfast Oct 12 Lord's Supper Oct 16 CoM Meeting Oct 21 Session Meeting



Share with each other some of the things you have learnt from the book of 1 Corinthians.

Pray for each other about these things—be specific!



1 Corinthians 15-16

worship him. Pray that we will worship God in a way that encourages and builds up the church.

Praise God that we can

meet together regularly to

ask God to help us to reach out to people in our local community (here in the Callide & Dawson Valley) and tell them what the gospel is all about.

pray also For our church leaders

for the preparations for our Family Camp in September

for the work of the Far East Broadcasting Compnay (FEBC). See page 15.



Remembering The Gospel



What is the best way for you to remember something?



1 Corinthians 15:1 –2 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.



God wants us to live as His chosen people.



READ 1CORINTHIANS 15:1-10

1. What do the Corinthians have to do for the gospel to be effective in their lives (vv. 1-2)?

- 2. What are we to remember, consider, and imitate—and why? (vv. 7-8)
- 3. Why does Paul call himself 'least of the Apostles'?



4. What has the grace of God produced in Paul?

READ 1CORINTHIANS 15:12-34

- 5. What is the importance of Jesus' resurrection?
- 6. If Christ was not raised from the dead, where would that leave us?
- 7. What does Paul tell us about Christ's return what can we expect?
- 8. How futile is life without Jesus? What is Paul saying in 15: 33 & 34

READ 1CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

9. Why does Paul encourage us to stand firm in our Lord ? What piece of knowledge gives us hope (v. 58).





What was Paul like before his conversion?

What was the reaction to Paul's conversion?

Why is Paul's conversion unusual? (He refers to himself as 'one abnormally born' - [1 Cor 15:8])



READ 1CORINTHIANS 16:1-24

10. Who is responsible for the welfare of God's people in Jerusalem.?

11. What are Paul's reasons for delaying his visit to Corinth and staying on at Ephesus?



12. How many people are listed in the letter who are involved with Paul in ministry. How many does he try to encourage?

13. How can we be effective in ministry here in the Callide/Dawson valleys. How can we best continue to remember and promote the gospel?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends



Sep 16 Session Meeting Sep 18 CoM Meeting Sep 19-21 Family Camp Pelican Pt Oct 6 **Public Holiday** Oct 7 VIP-Net Leader's Meeting Oct 11 Men's Breakfast Oct 12 Lord's Supper Oct 16 CoM Meeting Oct 21 Session Meeting



What is a good way to remember what Jesus has done for us?

Pray that we'll remember that Jesus is coming back so that we can live forever with him.



1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

Pray for the church in those parts of the world where there are troubles between the church and its leaders.

confess that we have often become complacent in our responsibilities as Christian brothers and sisters

ask God to help us to reach out to people in our local community (here in the Callide & Dawson Valley) and tell them what the gospel is all about.

pray also For our church leaders

for the preparations for our Family Camp in September

for the work of the Far East Broadcasting Compnay (FEBC). See page 15.



1 Corinthians 1-16

Notes

The titles, format and questions in these studies have been gradually developed from the 1990s onwards in cooperation with various pastors and ministry workers throughout Australia who have willingly shared their Bible study material with one another. Some of these shared titles, formats and questions have been utilized in Bible study booklets published by various evangelical churches. The common shared source of these studies published by these churches and their publishing houses is acknowledged.