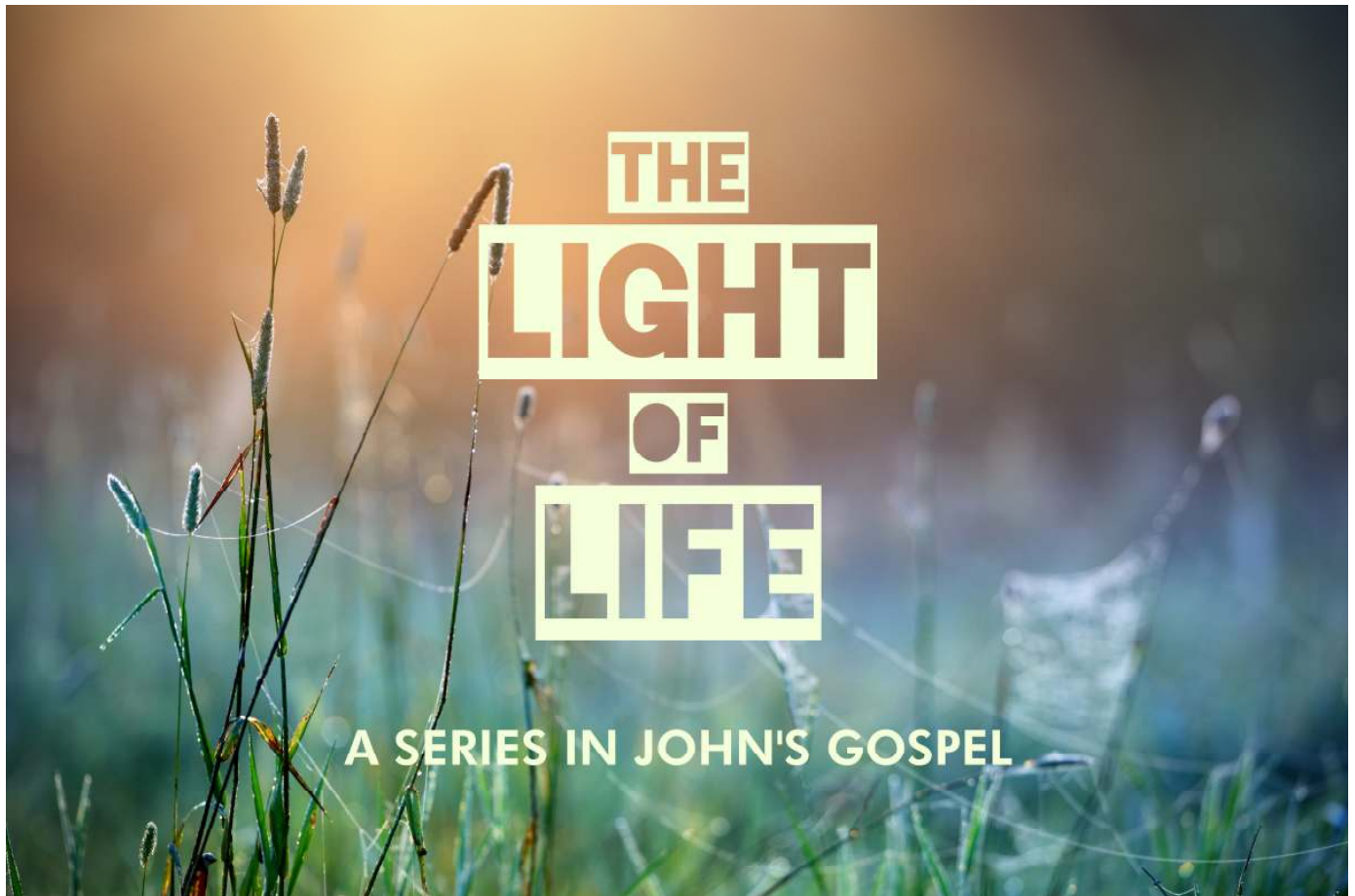


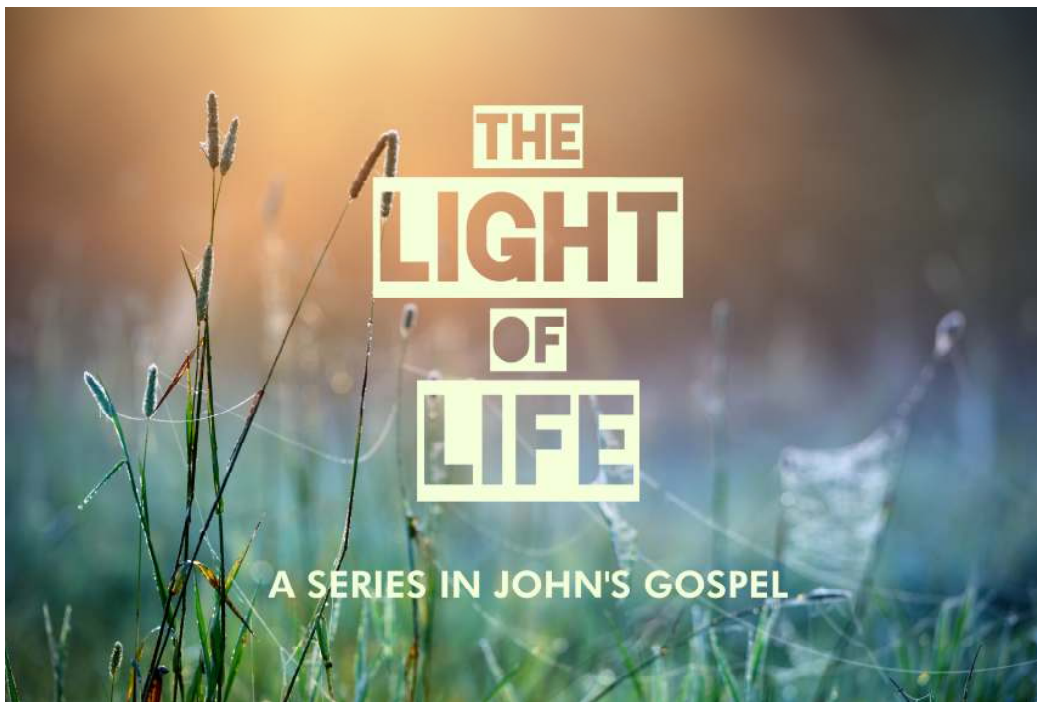
# Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

[Biloela & Jambin]



## growth groups booklet term 4 2014

1	THE LIGHT APPEARS	John 1	Oct 12
2	A MINISTRY OF CHANGE	John 2-4	Oct 19
3	HEALING THAT BRINGS OPPOSITION	John 5-7	Oct 26
4	THE GOOD SHEPHERD FIGHTS WOLVES	John 8-10	Nov 2
5	FAITH & UNBELIEF	John 11-12	Nov 9
6	A GREAT FEAST	John 13-14	Nov 16
7	REMAINING FAITHFUL	John 15-17	Nov 23
8	BETRAYAL, DEATH, AND PROMISE	John 18-19	Nov 30
9	A BLAZING VICTORY!	John 20-21	Dec 7



John's gospel is rich with information and gives vivid descriptions of many events in Jesus ministry. John includes for us a number of events which are not recorded in the other gospel accounts. Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus about being born again, the raising of Lazarus, turning of water into wine at a wedding in Cana in Galilee are only found in John's Gospel. John also includes a greater depth of teaching about the Holy Spirit than the other gospels.

While John's gospel contains many ideas and illustrations that are associated with first century Greek ideas, there is also a strong connection between this gospel and the Old Testament. We will see some of these links as we spend time this term studying the book of John.

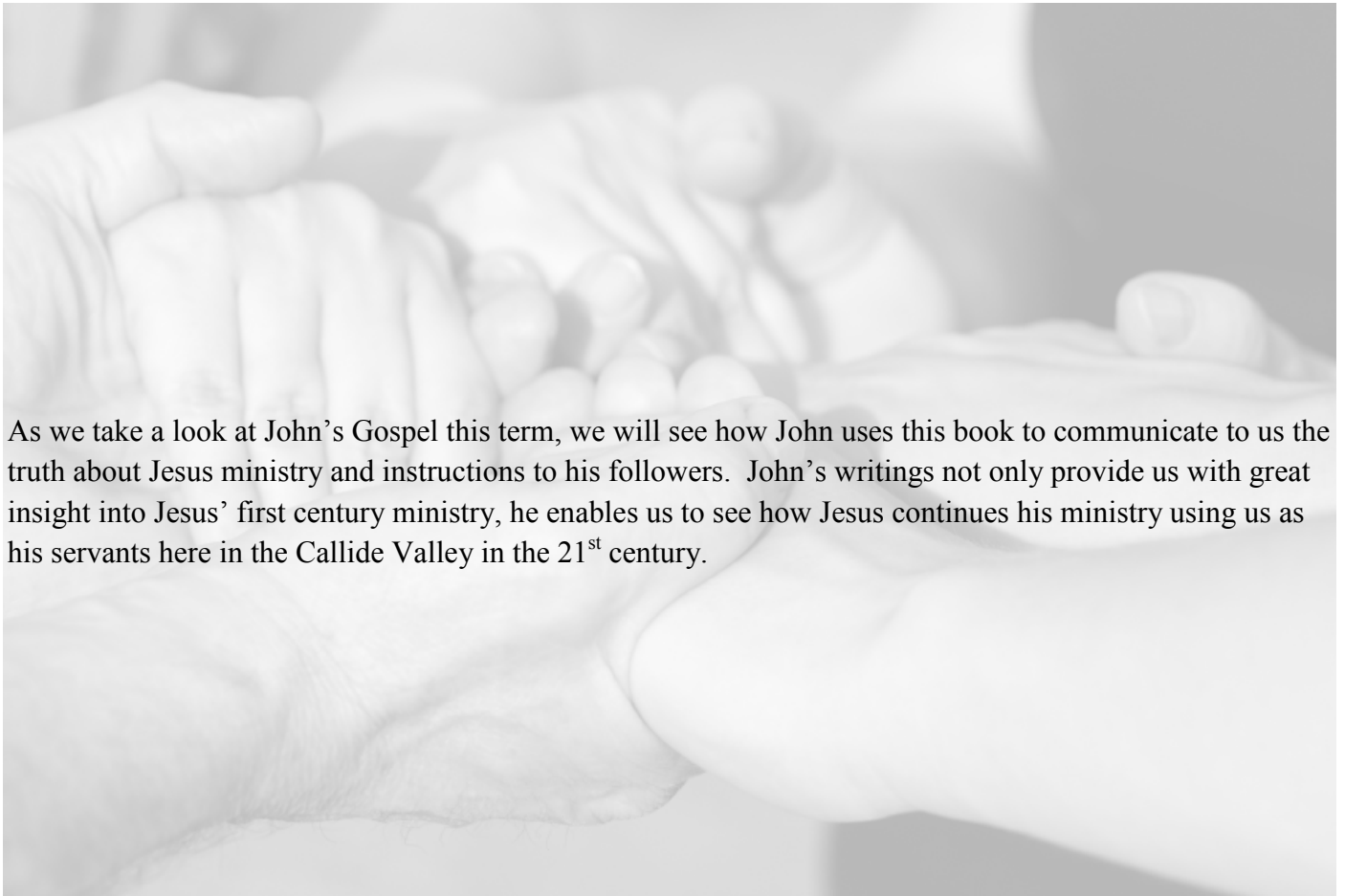
One of the biggest themes you notice as you read John's Gospel is the Appearance of the Son of God in Human History. Hence the title of this study series is "the light of life" taken from John 1:9 "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world..."

I'm excited about studying John's Gospel and I hope you are too!

Andrew.

The remains of the entrance to the library at Ephesus, the town where the apostle John spent the latter years of his life.





As we take a look at John's Gospel this term, we will see how John uses this book to communicate to us the truth about Jesus ministry and instructions to his followers. John's writings not only provide us with great insight into Jesus' first century ministry, he enables us to see how Jesus continues his ministry using us as his servants here in the Callide Valley in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



*“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:9-13 NIV)*

**Large amphitheatre at the entrance to the ancient city of Ephesus.**

It takes about one hour to read through John's Gospel. Doing that would be a great exercise in preparation for our series “**The Light of Life**”. Here are some questions to think about as you read...

1. What are the key things John wants to communicate about Jesus' ministry?
2. What does the gospel tell us about Jesus?
3. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in John's Gospel? How do these compare with what you know of the other gospels?
4. How would you summarise John's Gospel in a sentence or two?
5. What challenges/encouragements does John's Gospel offer us living as Christians today?

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# young adults

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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 4, and opening the bible with other young Christians from around the Callide Valley.

This term we will be meeting at 11 Raglan Street (house of Pastor John Spranklin), 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 study John's Gospel together. Over the course of nine studies we will seek to develop a better understanding of John's Gospel and what he teaches about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. This will help us to understand more about the man Jesus Christ, and see how he calls us into relationship with Him.

Andrew.

A blue rectangular poster with a large white cross on the left side. The cross is hand-drawn and slightly irregular. To the right of the cross, the words "CROSS" and "CONNECT" are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically. Below this, in smaller white text, is the sentence "An inter-church group connecting Christian young adults from across Biloela". Further down, in white text, are the details: "Bible study", "Sunday nights 7-9pm", "11 Raglan St, Biloela", and "TERM 4 - John's Gospel". At the bottom, in larger white text, is "Kick Off BBQ 6pm Sunday" followed by "12<sup>th</sup> October, Bring \$5.". At the very bottom, in small white text, are two contact details: "John Spranklin - 0427 873 915" and "Andrew Purcell - 0439 510 500".

**CROSS  
CONNECT**

An inter-church group connecting Christian young adults from across Biloela

**Bible study**  
**Sunday nights 7-9pm**  
**11 Raglan St, Biloela**  
**TERM 4 - John's Gospel**

**Kick Off BBQ 6pm Sunday**  
**12<sup>th</sup> October, Bring \$5.**

John Spranklin - 0427 873 915      Andrew Purcell - 0439 510 500



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# getting more out of your studies

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- **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 thoughtful 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 group well by preparing for the study. For study 1 read John chapter 1.

## **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 Ian Wilkie on 0407 156 543.

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# Our Elders

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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

Ian 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.

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# Our Minister

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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.





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# committee of management

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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 do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

## 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 get 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

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# Sunday School, Creche & Pebbles...

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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...



**NEW DAY & TIME**

**ebbles**

**Presbyterian Church Hall**  
(across the road from the post office)

**Tuesday**  
**10.00am - 11.30am**

Where parents talk  
and bubs play  
(toddlers welcome)

Come along, have fun & meet new friends

What to bring

- \* gold coin donation (per child)
- \* food for your child

Contact  
**Kerri 0437 559 793**

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

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# VIP-Net 4 Youth!

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At VIP-Net we have had an awesome term of weekly games, fun, fellowship and study. We've been following a great schedule including get-to-know-you games, bible-based games, discussion, learning, prayer and, of course, food! By rotating the leaders of the games, there are always new ideas for fun and exciting ways of re-living bible stories for our 30-40 VIPs. In our small group sessions, leadership and composition are fairly constant, providing a more stable environment where caring relationships can develop and God's work in our personal lives can be shared. This term we have been delving into 1 Peter to discover what this apostle tells us about how to "stick with it" (being a Christian, that is). We learned that being a Christian is not always easy – that in actual fact hardships are not only predicted, but should also be expected. Fortunately, however, Jesus is the ultimate 'overcomer' and his Holy Spirit gives us the ability to stand firm, despite hostility and opposition. During the term VIPs and leaders have shared what this actually looks like in their lives, and we have been praying for God's assistance.

In earlier terms we have enjoyed individual small group outings, but this term there was a huge surprise waiting for us. Many of our VIPs had suggested going to Rockhampton to play Laser Skirmish, however our pastor was able to go one better – he arranged for the Laser Skirmish company to come to us, and organise a monumental battle at Pelican Point! A bus was booked for the night so that all contestants could travel together; we enjoyed a BBQ tea while the anticipation and tension grew..... Finally CQ Laser Skirmish arrived, and all players were divided into two teams and issued with fearsome-looking weapons. Each gun was attached with a coiled cord into a set of lights worn on a headband, and remotely connected to some kind of master control panel that was able to record who was 'hit' or 'killed' and by whom. The weapons could be re-loaded out on the field, and more 'ammunition' acquired from the "medics" box. They also registered being hit with flashing headband lights and impressive audio and visual effects! Pelican Point provided a perfect location, with plenty of open space for the battle and an assortment of obstacles to hide behind, while God provided the perfect weather conditions – dry and mild, with a clear sky and just a little moonlight. He also covered all our 'soldiers' with safety, and the only wounds that night were the illusory ones! All VIPs were returned to their homes tired and late, but safe and sound – a great way to end a fantastic term.



**Please keep  
praying for  
all youth  
leaders**

Selma Dredge  
Lenette Witham  
Angela Borg  
Raymond Wilkie  
Ian Wilkie  
Lyn Wilkie  
Gavin Warmington

Cassandra Warmington	Luke Briesse
Kirstin Boal	Lucas Steger
Daniel Boal	Emma Campbell
Nigel Kruger	Laken George
Lyn Webb	Jasmine Donat
Michael Witham	
Danielle Witham	

## Changing the World One Disciple at a Time



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# Chappy Report

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## Chaplaincy Report Thangool, Banana, Jambin and Prospect Creek State Schools

*Hi there, colleagues, parents and friends.*

*The past month included a fantastic four days at the Chaplaincy Conference on the Sunshine Coast, together with another 600+ School Chaplains. The conference was absolutely jam-packed with speakers, workshops, SU updates, bible messages, prayer and fellowship. I learned so much from all the sessions.*

*The electives I attended were*

*Helping people through grief and loss*

*Resilience for families, and*

*community engagement*

*It was unbelievable for me that, although the days were so full, we were all re-invigorated and challenged in our roles as Chaplains. All the speakers were of such amazing calibre, I came away thoroughly re-charged, re-motivated and inspired. I also met many new people from whom to glean fresh ideas and was exposed to some great resources, like a little book of "Life Rulz". What a blessing our conferences are!*

*At the end of July Biloela celebrated NAIDOC week, and I was fortunate enough to be a part of the activities at Prospect Creek this year. We had "Johnny cakes" instead of toast for breakfast that morning cooked on the BBQ, and I taught groups of students a teamwork game based on the aboriginal game of Mer Kai. It was a well-organised and fun day, with quite a few parents also involved.*

*25<sup>th</sup> July was School Tree Planting Day, and for this auspicious occasion I was at Banana SS. A couple of parents had sourced quite a number of narrow-leaf bottle trees and other natives; they'd also prepared holes earlier and brought all the necessary equipment, including potting mix and latex gloves, so that all the students could take an active part. It was another opportunity for parents and community to work together for the school. Also at Banana we have just started a weekly parent group called "Banana Carers Connect". We meet at 9am in the Tuckshop for coffee, cakes and conversation about our shared passion - the children.*

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# Chappy Report (cont'd)

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*At Jambin I have been privileged to have been involved in the Education Queensland Daniel Morecombe programme, which aims at teaching children how to stay safe. The essence of this curriculum is to learn how to Recognise, React and Report all sorts of unsafe situations. Also at Jambin the students were recently treated to some touch-footy practice before school. Hopefully Michael Witham will be able to continue to come and play football with the students as it was really appreciated.*



*LEGO club continues to be popular at Thangool on Tuesdays, while on Wednesdays many students have now also been enjoying the latest “loom bands” craze! Now LEGO club has just begun at Prospect Creek SS, due to the generosity of the Banana Shire, who have once again generously supplied a grant for the LEGO. It’s great to see the students enjoying some of these alternative lunchtime activities!*

*Thankyou once again to the Chaplaincy Committee for their ongoing, multifaceted support, to the churches for their prayer and material support, and to my SU colleagues for their words of wisdom and encouragement. Being a Chappy in the Callide Valley is a real privilege!*

*Selma Dredge*

Date claimers:

***23-26 September – BLAST Camp, Yeppoon (SU Primary aged camp)***



How do people often respond to a report of incredible news? How might this change when they see things with their own eyes?



**John 1:9** The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.



John the Baptist announces the arrival of the Son of God in human history.



READ JOHN 1:1-18

1. What things do we know about “the word” from these verses (esp. vv1-5)? (List them!)

2. In verses 6-8, what specifically is John’s task?

3. Write out what you would say is the central message of verses 10-14...



4. What do verses 16&17 reveal to us about Jesus? Is there any link here between Jesus and blessing? (How should we respond to that?)

READ JOHN 1:19-34

5. What are the main elements of John’s testimony about Jesus?



6. What is your testimony about Jesus, and how is it different to that of John? [What do you tell others if they ask you about Jesus?]

7. What things can we ‘improve’ in our testimony so that we are more ready to answer people who ask us about Jesus?

READ JOHN 1:35-51

8. How does Andrew describe Jesus to his brother? What subsequent action does Andrew take? (How does he act upon this knowledge?)



DIG DEEPER

Read Isaiah 40:3-5.

How do these verses help us to understand more about John the Baptist’s role in Jesus’ ministry (c.f. John 1:23).

How is John’s role similar to ours as followers of Christ, and how is his role different to ours?

[For further information, read the other gospel accounts including Mark 1:2-8]



9. How does Philip describe Jesus to Nathanael? What action does Philip take/ how does he act upon this knowledge?

10. What is miraculous about Philip and Nathanael's meeting? What was Jesus able to see which gets Nathanael excited?

11. What does this encounter reveal to us about Jesus? How does Nathanael respond?



12. Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see greater things. What greater things does he speak of, and why are they greater? (To answer this you will need to read Genesis 28:10-14)

13. How have you responded to the truth about Jesus (the light of life who gives light to every man)?



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	Unbelieving friends

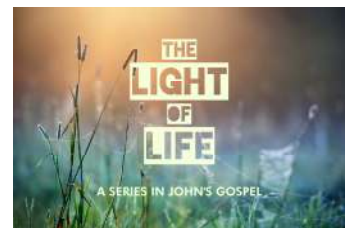


Oct 6	Public Holiday	Nov 29	Pelican Point Working Bee
Oct 7	VIP-Net Leader's Meeting	Nov 30	Pelican Point Service
Oct 12	Lord's Supper	Dec 14	Lord's Supper
Oct 16	CoM Meeting	Dec 14	Community Carols
Oct 18	Men's Breakfast	Dec 16	Session Meeting
Oct 21	Session Meeting	Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Oct 24-25	Men's & Boys Cania trip	Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc
Nov 8	Men's Breakfast	Dec 25	Christmas Service
Nov 11	Wahroonga Lord's Supper		
Nov 16	Combined Service (Uniting)		
Nov 20	CoM Meeting		
Nov 25	Session Meeting		



How can we tell others in our own family about Jesus? What would we tell them?

Pray that we would remember John's testimony about Jesus (vv.33-34).



*NIV John 1:33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'*<sup>34</sup> *I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."*

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...

John 2-4



Have you ever changed jobs, OR moved home from one town/city to another? What was the hardest thing about the change?



**John 4:23** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.



Jesus introduces changes that radically challenge the way God's people have been worshipping him.



READ JOHN 2:1-11

1. This is Jesus' first recorded miracle. What takes place here? (Describe the events which lead to the miracle...)

2. What does the miracle show/demonstrate (v.11)? What does the miracle cause to happen?

READ JOHN 2:12-25

3. What does Jesus do in the temple courts *at the time of the Passover*? Is it significant that it's the Passover?

4. What kind of change is Jesus moving towards and how does his comment to the Pharisees in John 2:19 support this?

5. What do the miraculous signs that Jesus performs cause to happen (v.23)?

READ JOHN 3:1-21

6. What change needs to happen in a person's life for them to see/enter the kingdom of God?



7. How does the 'Snake in the desert' illustration help to describe what needs to happen with Jesus? (see Numbers 21:4-9) How does this fit with the idea of being born again?



8. What are the two possible effects of the "light of life" shining into a person's world? (vv.19-21)

READ JOHN 4:1-26

9. What does Jesus offer the Samaritan woman who comes to draw water from the well? (v.14)



Read Psalm 69

What is 'Zeal for the Lord's House' all about?

What does Jesus say about the Lord's House in John 2:19?

Would you say that John 2:13-16 reflects a place of worship like that described in Hebrews 12:28? How does this tie in with John 4:23-24?

Would Jesus approve of our worship here in the Callide Valley?





10. How is the encounter with the Samaritan woman like Jesus' first encounter with Nathanael?

11. How is the woman's testimony about Jesus like that of Andrew and that of Philip in chapter 1? How does she respond to this knowledge Jesus has revealed to her?

12. What is the response of others in her village when they hear what she has to say? (vv.39-42)



13. What change in the way God is worshipped does Jesus speak of? (vv.23-24) How is this similar to what Nathanael is told that he will see?

14. In what way is each of us in a situation like the Israelites with Moses in the desert? How will looking to Jesus help us here in the Callide Valley in the 21st century? (John3:16-18)

15. How should we respond to the knowledge of what we have in Jesus? (c.f. John 1:41-42; 45; John 2:29; 39)



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	Unbelieving friends

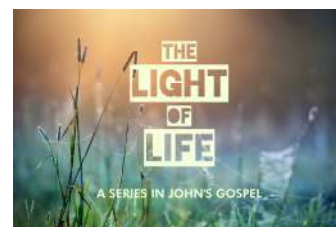


Oct 21	Session Meeting	Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Oct 24-25	Men's & Boys Cania trip	Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc
Nov 8	Men's Breakfast	Dec 25	Christmas Service
Nov 11	Wahroonga Lord's Supper		
Nov 16	Combined Service (Uniting)		
Nov 20	CoM Meeting		
Nov 25	Session Meeting		
Nov 29	Pelican Point Working Bee		
Nov 30	Pelican Point Service		
Dec 14	Lord's Supper		
Dec 14	Community Carols		
Dec 16	Session Meeting		



What are some of the changes Jesus calls us to make in OUR life?

Pray that we'd remember that our God loves us so much that he sent his son into the world to die in our place.



**John 3:16-18** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

praise God that Christ came among us and shared our humanity so that we can look to him and live.

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 help us to tell others about Jesus.

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.



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

John 5-7

# 3

# Healing that Brings Opposition



Have you ever done a good deed that generated a significant amount of opposition? What happened?



**John 5:16** So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."



Jesus has the power to restore life, and he calls us to believe in him despite opposition from the world.



READ JOHN 5:1-15

1. How long has this man been an invalid for, and what does Jesus say to him?

2. What advice does Jesus give to the man later when he sees him at the temple? What do you think Jesus is talking about?

READ JOHN 5:16-30

3. Why are the Jews so unhappy with Jesus that they want to kill him?

4. What does Jesus reveal in these verses about the relationship between himself and God the Father?

5. What 'task' has been assigned to Jesus?

6. How do verses 28-29 parallel what we saw in John 3:19-21?

READ JOHN 5:31-47

7. What scathing criticism does Jesus make of the Jews in vv.39-40? Is there a warning here for us?



8. What further observation does Jesus make about their worship/religion in vv.41-44? How can we make sure we don't fall into this scenario ourselves?

READ JOHN 6:1-15

9. Why was there a great crowd following Jesus? What is the anguish expressed by Philip when Jesus tells the disciples to feed them?



Read Isaiah 58

What is Isaiah to tell the people? How should the people of God be living?

When the people live the way God wants—what does he say they will be like? (What particular images are they likened to?)

How does this illuminate what Jesus says in John 7:37-40?

10. What happens with the 5 loaves and 2 fish, and what is the response of the crowd (v14)?



READ JOHN 6:25-40

11. What criticism does Jesus make of the crowd that pursue him? Are we inclined to behave like this (for example—in our prayer life)? What does Jesus say people should look for instead?

12. How does Jesus teaching in v29 link with v40?

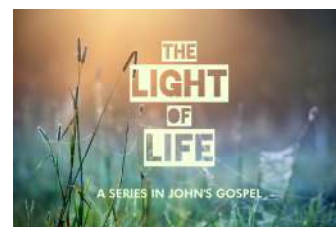
13. What is the ‘harsh’ teaching that causes many of Jesus’ disciples to desert him in vv 41-70? What is Peter’s response when Jesus asks the 12 if they want to leave too?

READ JOHN 7:1-24

14. What is the extent of the opposition Jesus is now facing in his ministry? (See also v30, 32).

15. Whose honour is Jesus working for (v.18), and how does he rebuke those who oppose him doing his father’s will? (v.23-24)

16. As followers of Jesus, should we expect opposition from the world? What should we do when we encounter opposition? (c.f. John 17:15-19)



*John 5:25-27 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.*



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	Unbelieving friends

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.



Nov 8	Men’s Breakfast	Dec 25	Christmas Service
Nov 11	Wahroonga Lord’s Supper		
Nov 16	Combined Service (Uniting)		
Nov 20	CoM Meeting		
Nov 25	Session Meeting		
Nov 29	Pelican Point Working Bee		
Nov 30	Pelican Point Service		
Dec 14	Lord’s Supper		
Dec 14	Community Carols		
Dec 16	Session Meeting		
Dec 18	CoM Meeting		
Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc		



How can we stand firm when we encounter opposition to Christianity?

Pray that we will be able to stand firm!!



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

John 8-10



Can you describe a time when you had to rely on someone to get you out of a tough situation?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



We should follow Jesus because he is the only one we can trust to lead us safely to eternal life.



READ JOHN 8:1-30

1. What seems to stop people from condemning the woman caught in adultery? What is Jesus' advice to her?

2. What warning does Jesus give to the Pharisees in v21; 24? How does this relate to the advice to the woman caught in adultery?

READ JOHN 8:31-47

3. How are we Jesus disciples, and what does the truth about Jesus do?

4. What are we set free from? Why do the Jews have trouble understanding this freedom (v.33)?

5. What should we do to have a permanent place in the family of God? (What stands in the way of this?) What does Jesus offer to do?

6. What do verses 56-59 remind us of about Jesus? How does this reinforce what we know from John 1:1-3?

READ JOHN 9:1-34



7. What is the healing that Jesus performs? How long has the man been in this situation?

8. How do the Pharisees respond to the healing?

9. What are the healed man's parents called in to verify? What are they afraid of (v.22)?

10. How does the man respond to the Pharisees comment that they do not recognise Jesus? (vv.29-34)



Investigate:-

In the Old Testament what did it mean to be a child of Abraham? What did you stand to inherit?

Why are the Jews so keen to be identified as Abraham's Children? (John 8:31-41)

Who does Jesus say their father is?



READ JOHN 9:35-41

11. How does Jesus act like a good shepherd towards this man? How does he respond to Jesus?

READ JOHN 10:1-42

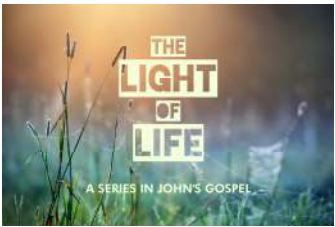
12. What is the key difference between Jesus and the 'hired hand' in these verses?

13. What does Jesus promise to 'his sheep'? (esp. v.17-18)

14. What do Jesus sheep do? (v25-30)

15. What do Jesus miracles continue to do? (v.25; 38)

16. Why should we follow Jesus?



*NIV John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*



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	Unbelieving friends

praise God that he sent Jesus to be our good shepherd

Pray that we will have a clear understanding of what it means to be a follower of him

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)



Nov 8	Men's Breakfast	Dec 25	Christmas Service
Nov 11	Wahroonga Lord's Supper		
Nov 16	Combined Service (Uniting)		
Nov 20	CoM Meeting		
Nov 25	Session Meeting		
Nov 29	Pelican Point Working Bee		
Nov 30	Pelican Point Service		
Dec 14	Lord's Supper		
Dec 14	Community Carols		
Dec 16	Session Meeting		
Dec 18	CoM Meeting		
Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc		



How many people in your family are following Jesus?...

Pray that we would continue to encourage all family members to follow him.



for revision of this series re-read...

John 11-12





Have you ever had someone who refused to believe you when you told them the truth? Why wouldn't they believe you?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 12:37** Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.



Refusing to believe the truth about Jesus has eternal consequences.



READ JOHN 11:1-37

1. What do we learn from verse 4? Does Jesus already know what's going to happen?

2. What is the main/central reason that Jesus waits, and then travels to where Lazarus is? (v.15)

3. What does Jesus question Martha about? How does she respond to Jesus? (v.23-27) Do you think she understands Jesus?



4. What are some of the Jews bitter about? Do we see people around us who have a similar kind of attitude today?

READ JOHN 11:38-57



5. What is the awesome miracle that Jesus performs? What does Jesus say they are witness to? (v.40)

6. What is the response of many who saw this miracle? (v.45)

7. What is the complaint of the chief priests and the Pharisees?



8. What do the Pharisees plan to do?

READ JOHN 12:1-19

9. Why did the chief priests decide to include the resurrected Lazarus in their plans for Jesus ?



read Zechariah 9; Psalm 118; Isaiah 53 & Isaiah 6.

How do these passages in the Old Testament further our understanding of what is happening when Jesus enters Jerusalem?

Who seems to be welcoming Jesus and who is rejecting the Lord of life?



10. How is Jesus received by the crowds, and how is he received by the Jewish authorities ?



11. In the Old Testament who typically gets anointed, and for what reason? (c.f. 1 Sam 10:1-2; 1 Sam 16:1; 1 Sam 16:11-13; 1Kings 1:29-35). Why do you think Jesus is being anointed here?

READ JOHN 12:20-50

12. What seems to be happening in v23-28? How does this compare with John 2:4; 7:6; 7:30; 10:39?

13. What does Jesus call people to put their trust in? Is this still important for us today?

14. Why didn't the Pharisees confess their faith, and how is this different to the response of the blind man in chapter 9, or the Samaritan woman in chapter 4? Is there anything stopping us from confessing our faith?



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

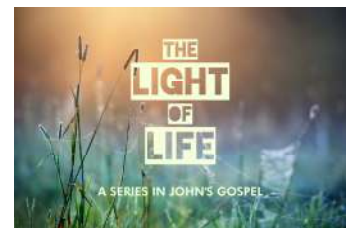


Nov 11	Wahroonga Lord's Supper
Nov 16	Combined Service (Uniting)
Nov 20	CoM Meeting
Nov 25	Session Meeting
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Dec 14	Lord's Supper
Dec 14	Community Carols
Dec 16	Session Meeting
Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc
Dec 25	Christmas Service



If we are going to confess our faith in Jesus, what will we tell people?

Pray that God will help us stand firm when we do this.



*NIV John 12:35-37 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.*

Pray that we would have a strong faith in Jesus and will allow his light to shine in our lives.

ask God to help us to tell others about Jesus and his offer of life.

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).



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

John 13-14



What celebrations do we have in our culture that look forward to the events that are about to follow?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 14:28-29** "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."



Jesus' death was forecast, predicted, anticipated, taught, and celebrated in advance. Now that it's happened we should be even more thankful and even more willing to put our faith and trust in him!



READ JOHN 13:1-17

1. What is the event that is being anticipated here? How long after the celebration feast will it follow?

2. How is the foot washing related to the celebration and what is Peter's response?

3. What is the example that Jesus sets for his disciples, and how is this still relevant for us today?



READ JOHN 13:18-38

4. What two events does Jesus predict in these verses ?

5. How would these events be tough to face, given that these predictions are about some of his 12 closest companions?



6. What does Jesus say in these verses about his glory? How is this related to the glory that we saw last week in the account of Lazarus in John 11:4&40?

7. How do people show that they are disciples of Jesus? How easy is this in practice?

READ JOHN 14:1-31

8. What does Jesus tell his disciples that will comfort them in the days to come? (esp. v.1-4)

9. Does Jesus put a restriction on who is able to enter heaven (his Father's house)? How would you share this knowledge with a person of another faith?



How does John 14:6-7 link with John 1:51/ Genesis 28:10-14?

Can you describe how the staircase works?



10. What do verses 12-14 mean for our Christian lives here in the Callide Valley? What kind of things should we be asking/praying to God for?

11. What does Jesus promise his followers in verse 26? What will the promise involve, and how will it be good for followers of Jesus?

12. What is Jesus' purpose in telling his followers how the future will unfold? (v.29)

13. How are we called to respond to Jesus and express our love for him? (esp. v. 15, 21, 23, 34)



14. Are we celebrating the Lord's Supper in an honourable and respectable way in our church? How does today's study help us to understand the great celebration we participate in when we eat the supper together?



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

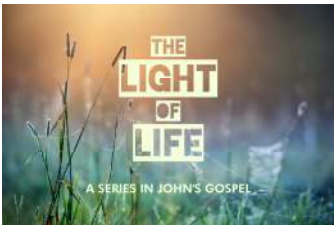


- |        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Nov 16 | Combined Service (Uniting) |
| Nov 20 | CoM Meeting                |
| Nov 25 | Session Meeting            |
| Nov 29 | Pelican Point Working Bee  |
| Nov 30 | Pelican Point Service      |
| Dec 14 | Lord's Supper              |
| Dec 14 | Community Carols           |
| Dec 16 | Session Meeting            |
| Dec 18 | CoM Meeting                |
| Dec 23 | Wahroonga Christmas Svc    |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Service          |



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

Pray that we might be faithful disciples of Jesus.



*NIV John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

praise God that he has poured out his Holy Spirit on those who put their faith and trust in Jesus.

Pray that we would continue to love one another and follow Christ's example in this—even when he knew they would betray and deny him.

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 Alsops, and the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.



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

John 15-17



How hard is it to continue to support your favourite sports team when they seem to lose every week?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 16:1** "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray."



We are given God's word and God's Holy Spirit so that we might remain faithful to him.



READ JOHN 15:1-27

1. What is the main image being used here to describe our relationship with God the Father and God the Son?



2. Who prunes the vine and what is the vine that's being pruned?

3. What is the effect of pruning the vine? Are there parts of our life that need pruning?

4. What do verses 16 & 17 tell us about the Christian life?

5. Should we expect a response/reaction from the world when we live as followers of Jesus and do what Jesus commands us to do?

READ JOHN 16:1-33

6. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?



7. What is Jesus saying in verses 19-24? How is this similar to the conversation he has with Nicodemus in John chapter 3?

8. What do verses 25-33 reveal to us about Jesus?



READ JOHN 17:1-26

9. What is the link here between glory and life?

10. What further things does Jesus reveal about his relationship with God the Father in verses 1-5?



Read John 17

What are the main elements of the prayer:-

A) for himself?

B) for his disciples?

C) for those who will believe in the future?

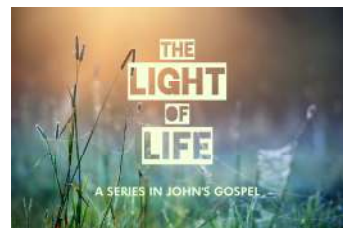


11. How has Jesus ministry given the disciples the things they need to remain faithful to Jesus? What things have the twelve been given? (vv.6-19)



12. What does Jesus pray for future believers? What are ‘future’ believers to do?

13. What do you need to remain faithful to Jesus?



*NIV John 15:9-11 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*



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

praise God that he has given each of us the ability to bear fruit for the gospel.

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, remain faithful to Jesus 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.



Nov 25	Session Meeting
Nov 29	Pelican Point Working Bee
Nov 30	Pelican Point Service
Dec 14	Lord's Supper
Dec 14	Community Carols
Dec 16	Session Meeting
Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc
Dec 25	Christmas Service



What can we do to help each other remember that Jesus lay down his life for his friends, and therefore we should love one another (John 15:12-13)?

Pray that we would remember all that God has done for us in Jesus.



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

John 18-19



Have you ever been let down by someone in a tough situation?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 18:11** Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"



Jesus remains steadfast and trustworthy all the way to the cross just as the Father commanded him. We are to follow his example.



READ JOHN 18:1-27

1. How do the authorities handle Jesus when he continues to present them with the truth about his ministry among them?

2. How does Peter handle the truth about being one of Jesus' disciples? In what situations might we find it hard to acknowledge being a follower of Jesus? (How might we gain confidence to speak the truth?)

3. What things in this passage are a fulfilment of a prior prediction or prophecy?



READ JOHN 18:28-40

4. Does Pilate find any grounds to hand out the death penalty to Jesus?

5. What is the final charge that is laid against him?

6. What does Jesus reveal about the kingdom that he is king of?

7. Who do the crowd want released instead of Jesus?

READ JOHN 19:1-27

8. Pilate wants to let Jesus go free. What seems to be stopping him?

9. As the officials and Chief Priests gather in opposition to Jesus, what are they doing with his offer to them that they should come to him to have life?



read  
Psalm 22

Psalm 34

Zechariah 12

How do these passages further help us understand the events and predictions surrounding Jesus' crucifixion?

READ JOHN 19:28-42

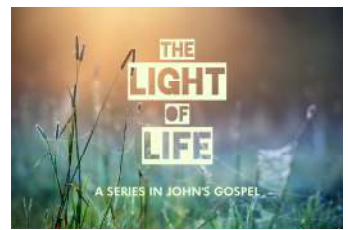
10. What are verses 28 and 30 referring to when they talk about completion and finish?

11. What are Joseph and Nicodemus risking when they come to Pilate and ask to bury Jesus?



12. What is the significance of the Day of Preparation before the Passover?

13. Are there any times where you have felt that you are the only Christian and that everything is against you. What might give you hope in such situations?



*NIV John 18:36-37 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." 37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*



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	Unbelieving friends



Dec 14	Lord's Supper
Dec 14	Community Carols
Dec 16	Session Meeting
Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Dec 23	Wahroonga Christmas Svc
Dec 25	Christmas Service

Praise God that we can meet together regularly to worship him.

Pray that we will remember his promises to us in Jesus.

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 Company (FEBC). See page 15.



What are some of the key things to remember about Jesus' kingdom (John 18:36-37)?

Pray that we would remember these things!



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

John 20-21



How do people generally react to the knowledge that they've had some kind of victory?



<sup>NIV</sup> **John 20:20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.



Because of his great victory over death, Jesus wants us to love him, follow him, and demonstrate his love to the world.



READ JOHN 20:1-23

1. Why did Mary and the others go to the tomb where Jesus was laid, and what did they find when they got there?

2. What was their initial reaction to what they found? (What did they still not understand—v.9)?

3. When Jesus appears to Mary, what are his instructions to her, and what does she do?



4. What is the reaction of the disciples when they see Jesus risen from the dead? What proof are they given that it is really him?

5. What commission are they given, and what are they given to help them?

6. Jesus says to them “Peace be with you” This has become a common greeting in a number of different churches. What specifically would be a source of peace for the disciples at this point?

READ JOHN 20:24-31

7. What does John tell us about the account with ‘doubting Thomas’? What is it that stops him from doubting? What might stop us from doubting that Jesus rose from the dead?

8. What do we learn about John’s purpose in writing down the gospel and recording it for future generations?

READ JOHN 21:1-25

9. What does Peter convince some of the other disciples to do (v.3).



read  
The other gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection.

What is similar, and what is different about John’s recording of the events?

What do you make of these differences?



10. How does their fishing trip fare before Jesus arrives? How do things go after he arrives?



11. What does Jesus say to Peter after they have finished eating some fish? What does he mean by this?

12. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him or not. What does Jesus tell Peter to do on each occasion? How is it different to what he has (just) been doing?



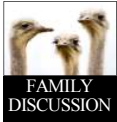
13. How can we be encouraged not to go back to our old ways before we met Jesus, but instead take up the call to follow Jesus, the light of life, who came into the world to rescue men?

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	Unbelieving friends

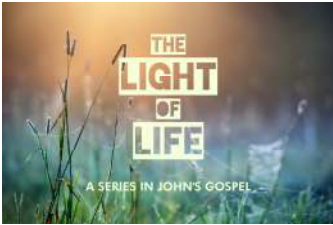


- Dec 14 Lord's Supper
- Dec 14 Community Carols
- Dec 16 Session Meeting
- Dec 18 CoM Meeting
- Dec 23 Wahroonga Christmas Svc
- Dec 25 Christmas Service



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.



*NIV John 21:17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"*

Pray that we would continue to remember the awesome victory that Jesus had over death itself, and that this is a 'permanent victory'!

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 as we follow Jesus.

pray also  
For our church leaders

for the preparations for our Community Carols Night

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



for revision of this series re-read...

John's Gospel



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# Family Camp 2014

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*This year our church family camp began Friday afternoon the 19th of September, coinciding with the end of Term 3.*

*Our guest speaker, the Rev. Peter Evans drove up from Dalby with his family for the weekend, and said afterward that he thoroughly enjoyed the camp. Peter spoke to us about the blessing of God, and demonstrated to us from scripture, that God blesses us for a*



*reason—so that we can take his gospel message to the world. Peter based these talks on the first four chapters of the book “Radical” by David Platt. All up Peter spoke four times, with each talk followed by a group study session which enabled further interaction with the scriptures. The talks were both challenging and encouraging. If you were unable to attend the camp this year and would like to hear the talks, they have been*



*recorded. Please contact Ian Wilkie to arrange a copy. Alternately, you could read the book “Radical”, available from Koorong, OR simply borrow the minister’s copy once he’s finished reading it!!*

*A special thankyou to all those who cooked and prepared our meals for camp—the food was excellent! Thankyou also to those who ran the Kid’s Program for the camp. (This year we had 26 adults and 24 kids, and so running the kids program was just as much effort as the rest of the camp!).*





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# Family Camp 2014

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*We also enjoyed some free time over the course of the weekend, some of which was spent around the camp fire, and some was spent on the water...*



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.