

# Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

[Biloela & Jambin]



## growth groups booklet term 2 2025

1	<b>Declaration of the King</b>	<b>Revelation 1:1-20</b>	<b>Apr 27</b>
2	<b>The King's Message to Seven Churches</b>	<b>Revelation 2:1-3:22</b>	<b>May 04</b>
3	<b>A Vast Assembly Praises the King</b>	<b>Revelation 4:1-5:14</b>	<b>May 11</b>
4	<b>Seven Seals</b>	<b>Revelation 6:1-8:1</b>	<b>May 18</b>
5	<b>Seven Trumpets</b>	<b>Revelation 8:2-11:19</b>	<b>May 25</b>
6	<b>Good v's Evil</b>	<b>Revelation 12:1-14:20</b>	<b>Jun 01</b>
7	<b>Seven Bowls</b>	<b>Revelation 15:1-16:20</b>	<b>Jun 08</b>
8	<b>Two Ways to Live</b>	<b>Revelation 17:1-19:21</b>	<b>Jun 15</b>
9	<b>Glorious Hope Part I</b>	<b>Revelation 20:1-21:27</b>	<b>Jun 22</b>
10	<b>Glorious Hope Part II</b>	<b>Revelation 22:1-21</b>	<b>Jun 29</b>





In Term 2 we are hearing from the book of Revelation in the New Testament. The book of Revelation is possibly the least understood, most confusing, and certainly the most highly debated book of the bible!! On first reading there are a lot of things that have a very limited description, and as readers, we're not given all the details that we'd like!! Just snippets of scenes and events that seem impossible to piece together. Even the sense of the timing of the events described is not clear, which has resulted in massive debates across the centuries since this book was recorded, about when all these things will happen and in what order!!

However, as we work our way through Jesus' letter to the seven churches we will discover that this is a highly Pastoral book, giving hope to persecuted Christians and reminding followers of Jesus of God's great love for us and his incredible plans for our future life with Him.

I hope this series will be an encouragement to you to bear witness to the truth about Jesus to a world that desperately needs to hear the gospel. I'm looking forward to term 2 as we continue to spend time together in God's word, and I hope you are too!

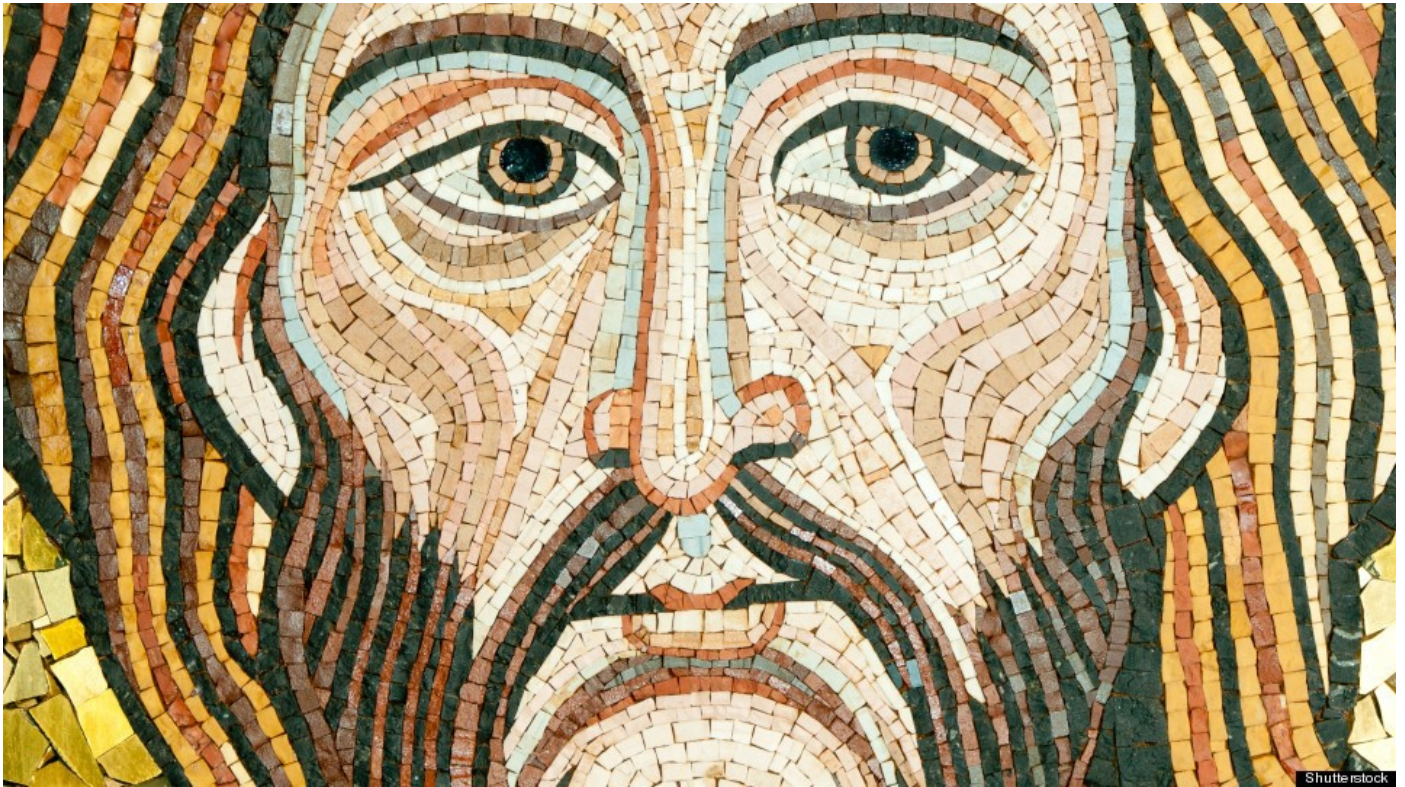
Andrew.



## ...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.





It takes about an hour to read through the book of Revelation. Here are some questions to think about as you read...

1. What specific things are we told about Jesus in the course of this letter?
2. What specific issues in the early church does the letter seem to address? What things are suggested in the letter?
3. What do these letters reveal about the character of God and his control over different situations?
4. How does John (the writer to the seven churches) encourage the early church?
5. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in the letter? How do these compare with what you know of other parts of the New Testament?
6. How would you summarise Revelation in a sentence or two?
7. What challenges/encouragements does this letter offer us as Christians today?



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# PELICAN POINT WORKING BEE!

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Recently we had a working bee out at the Pelican Point campsite in preparation for the Emerald Presbyterian Church family camp for 2025...



Gavin Warmington and others have re-painted the posts along the verandah in front of the dorms. This was a recent initiative of our Committee of Management.

Typical working bee activities include mowing, cleaning dorm rooms, cleaning bathrooms and cleaning the kitchen area. Many hands make light work on a typical Saturday morning working bee.



Electric leaf blowers and ride-on lawn mowers are regularly used on our working bees, as well as scrubbing cloths, paint brushes, brooms and mops.

Keep an eye out for our next working bee if you'd like to join in!

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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 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



**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.



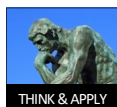
**big idea**  
gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



**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 Revelation 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 first Thursday 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 0429 630 562

Ian Wilkie 0407 156 543

John Semgreen 0419 028 502

Bruce Ninness 0433 226 874

Ian 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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2025 will be the thirteenth 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 new team for 2025 was elected at our Annual Congregational Meeting held in March 2025.

Our Committee for 2025 is..

*Gavin Warmington*

*John Semgreen*

*Bruce Ninness*

*Greg Holzhauser*

*Karen Hutton*

*Graeme Brieze*

*Lyn Wilkie (Treasurer)*

*Cassandra Warmington (Secretary)*

*Nathan Borg*

*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;

## 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 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



When do our leaders tend to make declarations and what is their purpose?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 1:18 <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**



Jesus is the King and brings a declaration to his people.

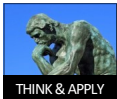


READ REVELATION 1:1-3

1. How has the message of Revelation come to us?
2. What do the words 'testimony' and 'testify' normally associate with? Why are these words being used here?
3. What are the two categories of blessing that John describes in these opening verses and what do they mean for world mission?
4. What will it mean to 'take to heart' or 'keep' the words of this prophecy?

Read Zechariah 12:10-13:1 .

What does the Prophet Zechariah reveal about the piercing of God?



READ REVELATION 1:4-8

5. After the introduction, who does John address the letter to, and what does this further tell us about the book of Revelation?
6. Who does John say the letter is from, and what are their 'qualifications'?

What does it mean that Jesus fulfills these verses?



7. What parts of the Old Testament does John quote, and what is he indicating to his readers by referencing these?



READ REVELATION 1:9-11

8. What is John's connection with the people he's writing to and how might this be significant for understanding the book?
9. What does John HEAR from the loud voice? (v.10-11) What might it mean to be 'in the Spirit'?





## READ REVELATION 1:12-20

10. What did John turn and SEE?

11. Who is this individual that John is seeing?



12. What is John's reaction and what words of comfort are offered to him?

13. How are these words comforting for us as well?

14. What are the lampstands and the stars, and what might it mean that Jesus is walking among them?

15. What task is John given?

16. How would you describe the book of Revelation so far—what it's about and what it seeks to achieve?



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



Apr 25	ANZAC Day	May 16-17	Biloela Show
Apr 27	Growth Groups Resume	May 19	CAMEOH 9.45am
Apr 27	Sunday School resumes	May 22	CoM Meeting
Apr 27	VIP-Net Youth resumes	May 25	Monto Annual Meeting
Apr 28	Young Adults resumes	May 26	Widows Group 9.30am
Apr 28	CAMEOH 8th B'day	May 31	Saturday Training Day
Apr 29	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Jun 01	Lord's Supper
May 01	Presbytery	Jun 05	Session Meeting
May 01	Session Meeting	Jun 07	Pelican Pt Working Bee
May 04	Mother's Day	Jun 08	Pelican Pt Service
May 05	Labour Day Holiday	Jun 17-20	State Assembly
May 12	Widows Group 9.30am	Jun 28	School Holidays START



How important is it for us to remember God's faithfulness?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to continue to pray for each other and allow God to bring us to maturity in Christ Jesus.



**NIV Revelation 1:17-18**  
***17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."***

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, especially those who are facing hardship in their lives.

Praise God that he remains faithful even though we do not

pray also

for Term 2 at School

for VIP-Net Jr, VIP-Net Youth and Sunday school which kick off over these next two weeks.



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

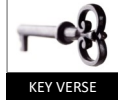
Revelation 2-3

# 2

## The King's Message to Seven Churches



If Jesus wrote a letter to our church, what would you like him to say?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 2:7** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



Jesus is continuing his ministry from his throne in heaven. His central message has not changed - repent and believe!! The good things of the kingdom await the faithful.



READ REVELATION 2:1-7

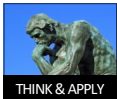
1. What attributes of Jesus are we reminded of (vv.1-2)?

2. What things are the church in Ephesus praised for, and what rebuke do they receive?

3. What does Jesus command them to do, and what does he promise if they 'are victorious'?

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-68 (& 27:14-15)

Do Israel deserve to receive the blessings or the curses according to what they've heard from Moses?



READ REVELATION 2:8-17

4. What attributes of Jesus are we reminded of?

5. What are Smyrna and Pergamum praised for/rebuked for?

6. What does Jesus command them to do, and what does he promise if they hear his words and 'are victorious'?

What kind of things might they expect to receive from Deuteronomy 28 given their conduct in the promised land?



READ REVELATION 2:18-3:6

7. What attributes of Jesus are we reminded of?



8. What are Thyatira and Sardis praised for/rebuked for?

9. What does Jesus command them to do, and what does he promise if they hear his words and 'are victorious'?



## READ REVELATION 3:7-22

10. What attributes of Jesus are we reminded of?

11. What are Philadelphia and Laodicea praised for/rebuked for?



12. What does Jesus command them to do, and what does he promise if they hear his words and 'are victorious'?

13. Are there any charges against the churches that particularly resonate with you (that our church family is guilty of)? What would Jesus advice to us be?

14. How would you summarise Jesus' overall message to the churches, and how might this be encouraging to us today?



15. What do these chapters of Revelation encourage you to do this week ?

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	



May 01	Presbytery	Jun 05	Session Meeting
May 01	Session Meeting	Jun 07	Pelican Pt Working Bee
May 04	Mother's Day	Jun 08	Pelican Pt Service
May 05	Labour Day Holiday	Jun 09	Widows Group 9.30am
May 12	Widows Group 9.30am	Jun 12	CoM Meeting
May 16-17	Biloela Show	Jun 16	CAMEOH 9.45am
May 19	CAMEOH 9.45am	Jun 17-20	State Assembly
May 22	CoM Meeting	Jun 23	Widows Group 9.30am
May 25	Monto Annual Meeting	Jun 28	School Holidays START
May 26	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 10	Session Meeting
May 31	Saturday Training Day	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
Jun 01	Lord's Supper	Jul 22	Standing Committees



How important is it for us to keep living the way God wants us to live rather than doing what we want to do?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



**NIV Revelation 3:21-22**  
<sup>21</sup> *To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.* <sup>22</sup> *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that he chose to rescue us through faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that our love for God and the love we have for each other, would grow more and more as we mature in Christ.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to live according to God's desire for our lives.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for Missionaries Keith and Elspeth Campbell as they return to Australia.

for our Sunday School ministry.

for the PCQ.



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

Revelation 4-5





What are some of the biggest gatherings you've ever been to and what is it like when everyone is cheering/singing together?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 5:12** <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"



Jesus comes to the throne amidst worship by a vast assembly in heaven. He is the only one worthy to open The Scroll.



READ REVELATION 4:1-11

1. How would you describe the vision that John is seeing?

2. What are the key things for us to understand about what John sees?

3. How is John going with the command to him in Revelation 1:19? (What do you think is difficult about this task?)

4. What things are the creatures and the 24 elders saying?



READ REVELATION 5:1-5

5. What does John see in the hand of God and what is the announcement the mighty angel makes?

6. Why does John weep bitterly?



7. What does John hear the elder say to him?



READ REVELATION 5:6-14

8. What does John then SEE (in v.8) and why might this be different to what he's expecting?

Read Exodus 19:1-25

What similarities are there with our reading today?

What seems to be different?

What has changed with regard to being in God's presence?



9. What two things are the elders holding? (What is significant about the prayers?)



10. What are each of the songs about, and what do they help us remember?



11. How does this VAST image compare with 1Peter 2:9-12; Philippians 2:1-11?

12. How do these verses inspire and encourage us in our faith in Jesus?

13. What might we do differently this week having considered these verses in Revelation?

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	



May 01	Presbytery	Jun 05	Session Meeting
May 01	Session Meeting	Jun 07	Pelican Pt Working Bee
May 04	Mother's Day	Jun 08	Pelican Pt Service
May 05	Labour Day Holiday	Jun 09	Widows Group 9.30am
May 12	Widows Group 9.30am	Jun 12	CoM Meeting
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May 31	Saturday Training Day	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
Jun 01	Lord's Supper	Jul 22	Standing Committees



What are some of the best ways to remember God and how he calls us to live as his people?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



**NIV Revelation 5:13**  
**13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"**

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would be rich in our faith in Jesus and so inherit the kingdom he has promised to those who love him.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, remembering how Jesus has given his life so that we can be forgiven.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring salvation to his people, and give thanks that we no longer have to make endless sacrifices/give thanks for the new covenant in his blood.

pray also

for our Elders and those who lead our ministries.

for the VIP-Net Youth and their leaders.

For our Police Force and those in our Emergency Services.



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

Revelation 6-7



What are some common images that people have of Judgment Day?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 6:16-17** <sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”



We come to the first picture of the day of Judgment, and the inevitable question “Who Can Stand?”.



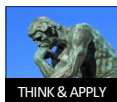
READ REVELATION 6:1-6

1. What happens with the opening of each of the first three seals?

2. What tasks are the riders given, and who is involved in each case?

READ REVELATION 6:7-12

3. What happens with the opening of each of the second three seals?



4. What is the reaction of the rulers of the earth to all of this? (vv.15-17)

READ REVELATION 7:1-17

5. What is the stark contrast between chapters 6 and 7?

6. How would you describe the situation of the followers of Jesus compared to the rulers of the earth in 6:15?



7. Do you think the numbers in verses 4-8 are to be taken literally or symbolically? (a subject of great debate!!)



8. How many people are pictured in verse 9 and where are they from?

9. Do you think these images are meant to create anxiety and stress, or to give comfort to God's people?

Read Isaiah 49:8-13

How do these verses resonate with what we read in chapter 7?

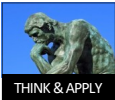
Is it comforting to know that this is what God has known/ planned all along for his people?





10. What realities highlighted by the elder in verses 14-17 can we draw comfort from?

11. How would these words provide comfort and assurance to the persecuted church?



12. Is it better to be in the position of the people in chapter 6 or chapter 7? (What is the difference between the two groups?)

13. How does the vision of the seven seals draw to a close? (What is the marker/sign that the scene is changing? 8:3-5)

14. Do you have anyone you would like to share the gospel with this week? (What could your group pray for you?)



15. Do these words have a bearing on how we treat each other in our church family?

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	



May 05	Labour Day Holiday	Jun 09	Widows Group 9.30am
May 12	Widows Group 9.30am	Jun 12	CoM Meeting
May 16-17	Biloela Show	Jun 16	CAMEOH 9.45am
May 19	CAMEOH 9.45am	Jun 17-20	State Assembly
May 22	CoM Meeting	Jun 23	Widows Group 9.30am
May 25	Monto Annual Meeting	Jun 28	School Holidays START
May 26	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 10	Session Meeting
May 31	Saturday Training Day	Jul 13	School Holidays FINISH
Jun 01	Lord's Supper	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
Jun 05	Session Meeting	Jul 15	VIP-Net Jr Leaders Mtg
Jun 07	Pelican Pt Working Bee	Jul 17	Presbytery
Jun 08	Pelican Pt Service	Jul 22	Standing Committees



What are some ways we can remember what Jesus has done for us?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



**NIV Revelation 7:16-17**  
**16 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"**

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would strive to live righteously in God's sight, knowing that Jesus forgives us when we get it wrong.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

Praise God that he has a plan to make his people holy and bless us with eternal life.

pray also

for our Young Adults group

For Lachlan Dingwall and Charisse Cullen and their ministry to university students

for the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and the work they do to bring the gospel to the remotest parts of our country.



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

Revelation 8-11 .



What's the worst natural disaster you've encountered? What happened?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 8:13** <sup>13</sup> As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"



We come to the second picture of the day of Judgment, and the question remains "Who Can Stand?".



READ REVELATION 8:1-13

1. What happens with the sounding of each of the first four trumpets?

2. How is this a different picture of judgment compared to the seals?

READ REVELATION 9:1-19

3. What happens with the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets?

4. What is happening here that is similar to the opening of the seals?



5. What is the sad reality described in 9:20-21?

READ REVELATION 10:1-11

6. After John is told 'not' to write down what the seven thunders have spoken, what 'unusual' task is he given to do?



7. Does this task sound familiar or have any Old Testament grounding? (c.f. Ezekiel 3:1-3)



8. What place does testimony and witness hold in these verses? What is the reminder for us here?

READ REVELATION 11:1-14

9. What is John given, and what information is he to gather?

Read Jeremiah 5:1-5; Ezekiel 18:25-32

How are we to understand repentance from the Old Testament?

How does this stack up against the teaching of Revelation?

What was the basis of Jesus ministry and teaching? (c.f. Matt 4:12-17)



10. What are the two witnesses bearing testimony to, and what effect does this have on the earth's inhabitants?



11. How do the people respond to their testimony, and does this line up with Jesus' teaching (c.f. John 15:26-16:4)

12. What happens to the two witnesses after they are killed, and how do the people respond?

13. What things are announced with the sounding of the seventh trumpet?

14. How does this image/vision draw to a close? (11:19)

15. Who ends up victorious in this vision and who does not?



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:

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What are some ways we can speak kind words to each other? (Prov 16:24)

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



*NIV Revelation 11:11-12*

***11 But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.***

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would speak well of each other and say things that build one another up in our faith in Jesus.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

for the ministry of our Committee of Management.

That our Local Chaplaincy Committee will be able to fill a number of chaplaincy vacancies including our High School, Primary School, and District Schools.

for the Presbyterian Church in Emerald and particularly that Rod would be a faithful minister of God's word as he and the church reach out to the Emerald community with the gospel.



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

Revelation 12-14 .





Good v's Evil always seems to make for a good movie plot. How do we generally expect things to turn out?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 12:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.



We come to the third picture of the day of Judgment, and the question remains "Who Can Stand?".



READ REVELATION 12:1-17

1. What are the key things we discover from the vision of the woman and the dragon? (how is the dragon defeated v.11; what does he do in v.17?)

READ REVELATION 13:1-10

2. What is happening in this vision with the people of the earth and worship?

3. What seems to be the basis of their reason for worship?

4. Who ends up worshipping the beast/dragon? Is this how we actually understand things as Christians?



5. What is it that readers are to 'hear' and why is there a call for patient endurance on the part of God's people?

READ REVELATION 13:11-18

6. There is much debate over this passage in Revelation! Is the beast a 'good guy' or a 'bad guy'?



7. What are people being forced to do?



READ REVELATION 14:1-13

8. What are the 144,000 doing in this vision? (How does this contrast with the rest of the world?)

9. What is the eternal gospel being proclaimed and who is it being proclaimed to? (v.7)

Read 2Peter 3:3-14

What kind of judgment does Peter describe?

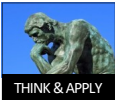
Does this seem to line up with John's vision here in Revelation?

What is Peter's message to followers of Jesus?



10. Who is being called to 'patient endurance' while these things happen on the earth? (v.12-13)

READ REVELATION 14:14-20



11. Who does John see seated on the white cloud and what is he doing?

12. Does this picture of judgment line up with what we understand of scripture elsewhere—eg Matthew 3:12; Dan 7

13. What is John pointing out to those who remain faithful to Jesus?

14. How does this story of good v's evil end?



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)

Growth Group members		Unbelieving friends	



May 25	Monto Annual Meeting	Jun 28	School Holidays START
May 26	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 10	Session Meeting
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Jun 09	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 20	VIP-Net YOUTH resumes
Jun 12	CoM Meeting	Jul 20	Young Adults resumes
Jun 16	CAMEOH 9.45am	Jul 21	CAMEOH 9.45am
Jun 17-20	State Assembly	Jul 22	VIP-Net Jr resumes
Jun 23	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 22	Standing Committees



What are some ways we can live the kind of life God calls us to live?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live in a way that brings honour and glory to God.



**NIV Revelation 14:7**  
**7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."**

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—we deserve his undivided loyalty and attention.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to avoid the temptations this world offers.

Pray that we would ask God for the things we need, rather than seek to obtain our wants and desires by worldly means.

pray also

for our kids, youth and young adults.

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

For Emmanuel Jhonly and the work of IRFQ and the mission to southern India. Pray for his upcoming trip to India.



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

Revelation 15-16 .



What is the worst part about getting sick, and what are you reminded of when you get better?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 15:6** <sup>6</sup> Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.



We come to the fourth picture of the day of Judgment, and the question remains “Who Can Stand?”.



READ REVELATION 15:1-4

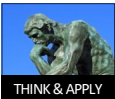
1. What does John see at the start of this next vision/sign?

2. What is the victory song that is being sung about the King?

3. Are there new things in this song—or is it full of lines we already know to be true?

READ REVELATION 15:5-16:7

4. What happens as the first three bowls are poured out?



5. What things are being said in judgment, and why are they being condemned?

READ REVELATION 16:8-14

6. What happens as the next three bowls are poured out?



7. What do the inhabitants of the earth fail to do in v.11?



8. What do these bowls remind you of from the Old Testament, and what might John be telling us about this aspect of the judgment?

READ REVELATION 16:15-21

9. What is the warning/blessing from Jesus in v.15? How are we meant to respond?

Read 1Thessalonians 5:1-11

How similar are Paul’s words of instruction and guidance to what John records in Revelation 16:15?

How would Paul counsel us to respond to the knowledge of the King’s return?





10. What happens when the seventh bowl is poured out? (Have we heard/ seen this already? 6:12; 8:5; 11:19...



11. How do the people of the earth respond to the calamity sent by God through his angels? (v.21)

12. How should we respond to the pouring out of the seven bowls and why?

13. Who is victorious in this vision, and what does that mean for us?



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:

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Jun 01	Lord's Supper	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
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Jun 17-20	State Assembly	Jul 22	VIP-Net Jr resumes
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Jul 10	Session Meeting	Aug 1-2	VIP-Net Jr CAMP
Jul 13	School Holidays FINISH		



What are some ways we can prepare for the return of King Jesus?

Pray that we'd respond to Jesus with the same kind of love and commitment he has shown us.



**NIV Revelation 16:15**  
**15 "Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."**

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be alert to the good things we ought to be doing, and take the time to do them.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

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 the ministry of Paul Smith in the Philippines

For the ministry of our Theological College QTC



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

Revelation 17-19 .



What are some of the big decisions that people have to make in life, and what is big about deciding whether to follow Jesus or not?



<sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 18:4-5** <sup>4</sup>Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “‘Come out of her, my people,’ so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; <sup>5</sup>for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.



Those who follow Jesus will feast at the wedding banquet of their King when he returns.



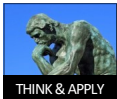
READ REVELATION 17:1-18

1. What are we told in verse 2 and in what ways might we see this happening around us today?

2. Do you think verse 14 is the main verse for us to remember here? What does it tell us?

READ REVELATION 18:1-10

3. How are these verses predicting the end of all mankind’s sinful ways?



4. What seems to be ‘man’s perspective’ on the end of all the abominations and sins? (vv.9-10)

5. Do you think these verses are still relevant to us in the church today?

READ REVELATION 18:11-24

6. Why are the merchants and sea captains in mourning? (v.11; 17)



7. What are God’s people told to do in verses 4 & 5?



8. What has happened to worldly riches and worldly treasure?

9. Why has ‘Babylon’ been judged so harshly according to verse 20ff?

Read Joshua 24:14-18

What decision does Joshua put before the people of Israel?

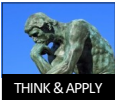
How might this be similar to the decision we still have to make today?



## READ REVELATION 19:1-10

10. What is the great roar in heaven about, and what is being proclaimed? (vv.1-2)

11. Who is at the wedding banquet of the Lamb, and what is their 'status'?



## READ REVELATION 19:11-21

12. What happens on the day of judgment to all those who take their stand against the rider on the white horse? (Who is the rider on the white horse?)

13. According to this future, which is the best way to live? (Who should we follow and why?)



14. In what ways are you encouraged in your faith when you read these chapters? (Who could you encourage in their faith this week?)

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:

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Jun 01	Lord's Supper	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
Jun 05	Session Meeting	Jul 15	VIP-Net Jr Leaders Mtg
Jun 07	Pelican Pt Working Bee	Jul 17	Presbytery
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Jul 10	Session Meeting	Aug 1-2	VIP-Net Jr CAMP
Jul 13	School Holidays FINISH		



What are some ways we can remember and celebrate God's compassion and mercy for us in Jesus?

Pray that we'd be thankful for the things we have been blessed with, and patient as we wait for his return.



**NIV Revelation 19:9**  
***<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."***

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be patient, and trust God in all things, remembering this vision that John has been given and the victory of Jesus.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also  
 For our church leaders as they prepare for our State Assembly

for the ministries of L&C; Glen and Liz; Paul Smith; Libby Haswell; & Keith & Elspeth, IRFQ.

for the work of the Bible League as they seek to provide bibles to persecuted Christians.



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

Revelation 20-21 .



May 01	Presbytery	Jun 16	CAMEOH 9.45am
May 01	Session Meeting	Jun 17-20	State Assembly
May 04	Mother's Day	Jun 23	Widows Group 9.30am
May 05	Labour Day Holiday	Jun 28	School Holidays START
May 12	Widows Group 9.30am	Jul 10	Session Meeting
May 16-17	Biloela Show	Jul 13	School Holidays FINISH
May 19	CAMEOH 9.45am	Jul 14	Widows Group 9.30am
May 22	CoM Meeting	Jul 15	VIP-Net Jr Leaders Mtg
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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.