

Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

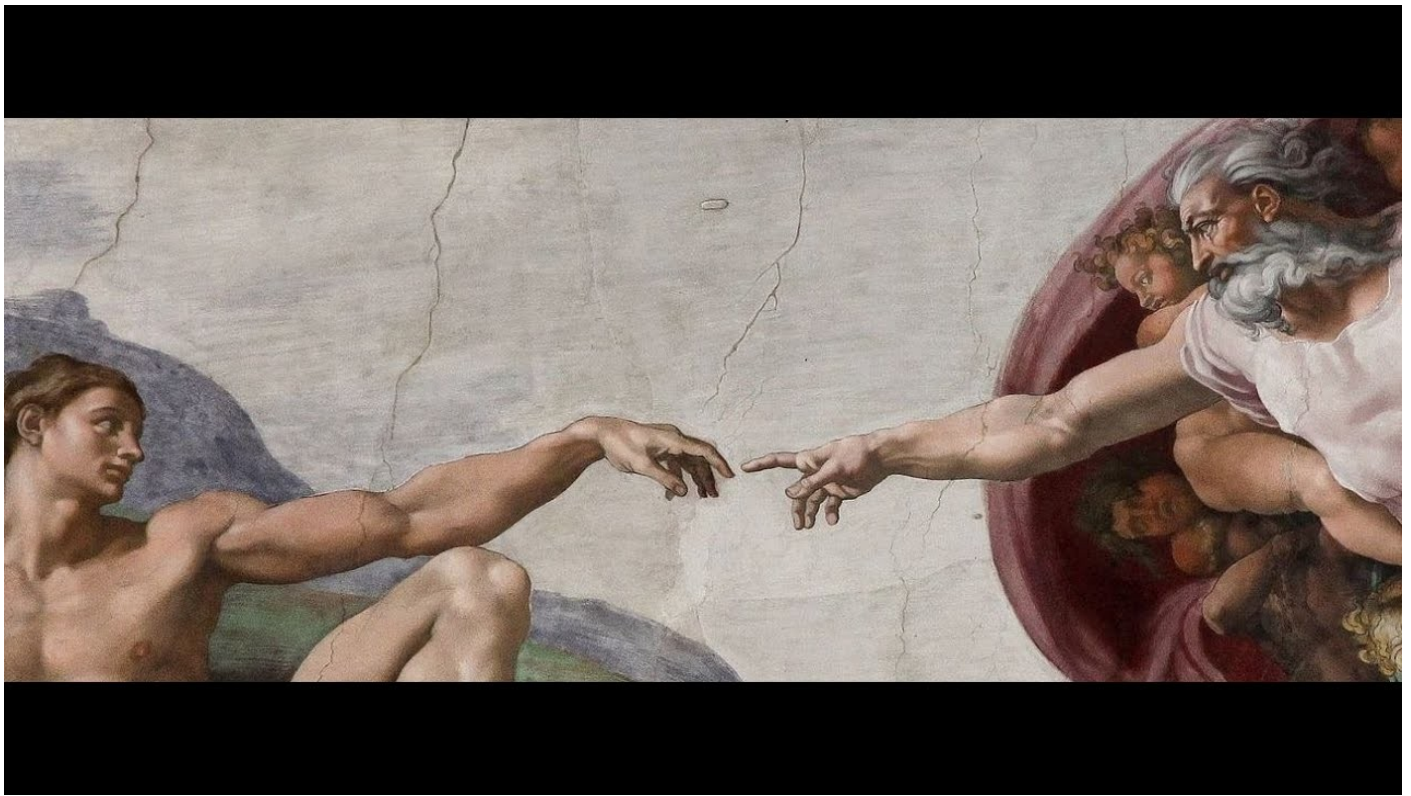
[Biloela]

OLD TESTAMENT WISDOM



growth groups booklet term 4 2026

1	Jesus Is The King	Deuteronomy 17:14-20	Oct 11
2	Jesus The Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:14-19	Oct 18
3	Jesus The Priest	Exodus 19:3-25	Oct 25
4	Jesus The Promised Son	Isaiah 9:1-7	Nov 01
5	Jesus The Suffering Servant	Isaiah 53:1-12	Nov 08
6	Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Nov 15
7	Jesus Prepares Us for The Wedding	Isaiah 25:6-9	Nov 22
8	Jesus Brings Blessing to All Nations	Genesis 22:11-18	Nov 29
9	Jesus Will Return On The Clouds of Heaven	Daniel 7:8-14	Dec 06



In Term 4 we are looking at how wisdom drawn from the Old Testament informs us about the character and person of Jesus. In this series we will be looking at a variety of Old Testament passages that reveal essential truths about Jesus to help us better understand our Lord and Saviour and King.

There really are incredible truths in the pages of the Old Testament and I hope this series will be an encouragement to you in your Christian walk. I'm looking forward to term 4 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 a year and a half to read through the Old Testament, and I'm not suggesting you do that! What would be good is if you could read through each of the readings listed on the front page. Here are some questions to think about as you read...

1. What specific things are we told about this role in the Old Testament and what might it reveal about Jesus?
2. What specific context do each separate reading come from? What things are different compared to the New Testament period?
3. What do these readings reveal about the character of God and his control over different situations?
4. What are some of the key questions that each passage raises in your mind?
5. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in these readings? How do these compare with what you know of Jesus in the New Testament?
6. What are you most looking forward to learning about/discovering in this series?
7. What challenges/encouragements do these readings offer us as Christians today?

PELICAN POINT WORKING BEE!

Recently we had a working bee out at the Pelican Point campsite in preparation for the Sunday School Picnic for 2026, and also an upcoming Cadet Camp...



Last year we re-painted the posts along the verandah in front of the dorms. This was an 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!

getting more out of your studies

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



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.



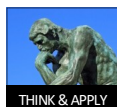
big idea
gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



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 Deuteronomy chapter 17.

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.

Our Elders

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.

Our Minister

2026 will be the fourteenth 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. John is currently in Brisbane in his second year of university.



committee of management

The Committee of Management (CoM) is a ministry that consists of a team of dedicated members of the congregation who manage the daily operations of the Church. The primary function of the CoM is to manage, in a responsible manner, the financial and property aspects of the church. This includes preparing annual budgets and financial statements of the church and managing the ongoing maintenance of the church building and grounds including the Pelican Point campsite. Our new team for 2026 was elected at our Annual Congregational Meeting held in March 2026.

Our Committee for 2026 is..

Gavin Warmington

John Semgreen

Bruce Ninness

Greg Holzhauser

Karen Hutton

Graeme Brieze

Lyn Wilkie

Cassandra Warmington (Secretary)

Nathan Borg

Michael McCallum (Treasurer)

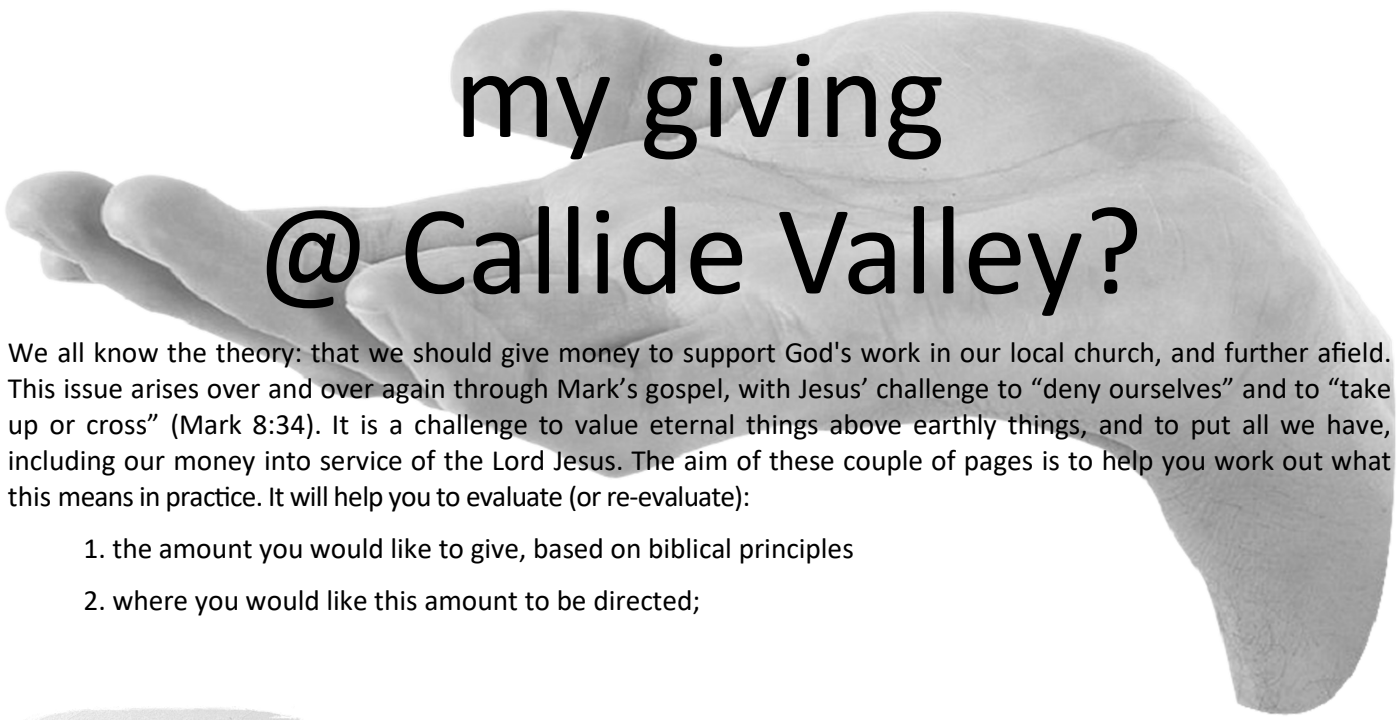
John Cruickshank

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

Sunday School Picnic July 2026



Families enjoying the beautiful weather for our Sunday School Picnic.

On the last Saturday in July we held our Sunday School Picnic at our Pelican Point campsite. We had a small crowd for the event, and had about two hours worth of games, challenges, and eating picnic morning tea. The Lord blessed us with excellent weather—a fairly cool start turned into a beautiful sunny winter's day, and most jumpers were off by the time we got to the teenagers v's 'everyone else' soccer match.

Highlights of the morning were the food, the games including dodge ball, the three legged race, soccer, bible bingo, and picking up the 25 pebbles to be able to play bible bingo, and just spending time together with families!

A big thank-you to Gavin and Cassandra for organising and advertising the event and doing all of the logistics (planning and setting up the games, brining the tea and coffee, and taking all the equipment back to the church at the end of the picnic).



The line up for the three legged race—there was some stiff competition, however Claire Purcell and Robyn Letts were victorious by a narrow margin to Ben Letts and the Minister. (The teenage boys proved that 4 legs wasn't an advantage!)

The skipping rope challenge was largely an event for the teenagers this year, with others finding mobility issues hampering their efforts!



VIP-Net Jr Camp and QuizWorx 2026...

This year our VIP-Net Jr camp was based around the 'Journeys of the Apostle Paul', and we were joined by many of our VIP-Net Youth who were our 'junior leaders' on camp. The youth helped with the games, setting up the activities, running the scavenger hunt by setting up four of the locations in Paul's journeys, and preparing/serving the food on camp.



We had an awesome Tuesday night in Term 2 when QuizWorx brought their puppet show to VIP-Net Jr! We learnt that anyone can be a part of the family of God by trusting and believing in Jesus, God's one and only son!



Who is the King of Australia and how much attention do we usually give him?



^{NIV} **Daniel 2:44 ⁴⁴“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.**



Jesus is the King and will reign forever over God's kingdom. The Old Testament provides us with an incredible wealth and depth of knowledge about God's coming king. He is Greater than Solomon!



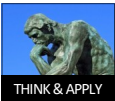
READ DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

1. In verses 14-17, what are God's people to remember when they look for a king to rule them?

2. Does Jesus 'qualify' for kingship of God's people?

3. In verses 18-20, what is the king meant to do when he ascends to the throne?

4. How would you describe the 'track record' of the kings of God's people in the Old Testament (e.g. 1Ki 10:26-29; 1Ki 11:1-6)?



5. Why did God's people eventually go into exile?

READ DANIEL 2:44-45; JEREMIAH 23:5; ISAIAH 9:7

6. What are we told about the coming Kingdom of God?



7. What are we told about God's king that he will raise up?



8. How will he be different to the 'rest' of the kings of God's people?

READ PSALM 9:7; ZECHARIAH 9:9

9. What additional information do these passages tell us about God's king?

Read Luke 1:68-69

What has God done for his people?

Who is speaking these words and what is the context?



READ LUKE 1:32-33

10. What does the angel tell Mary about the child she will give birth to?

11. What are the indications that he is going to be the king Israel have been waiting for?



READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

12. What is Herod and Jerusalem's reaction to the news that the king of the Jews has been born?

13. What was the reaction of the Magi when they found the new-born king?

READ JOHN 18:33-37

14. What does Pilate discover about Jesus' kingship?



15. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your king, and how should you respond?

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

Growth Group members		Unbelieving friends	

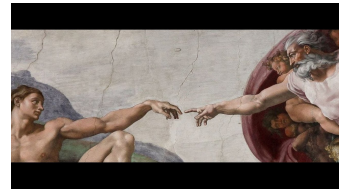


Oct 05	King's Birthday	Oct 30-31	Presbytery Retreat
Oct 06	School Holidays Finish	Nov 01	Pelican Point Service
Oct 11	Growth Groups Resume	Nov 02	Widows Group 9.30am
Oct 11	Sunday School resumes	Nov 05	Session Meeting
Oct 11	VIP-Net Youth resumes	Nov 9	CAMEOH 9.45am
Oct 11	Young Adults resumes	Nov 15	VIP-Net SEMI-FORMAL
Oct 11	Lord's Supper	Nov 19	CoM Meeting
Oct 12	CAMEOH 9.45am	Nov 21-22	EPC Carols & 10Yr Anniv
Oct 13	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Dec 03	Session Meeting
Oct 15	CoM Meeting	Dec 06	Biloela Combined Carols
Oct 17	2027 Planning Day	Dec 12	School Holidays START
Oct 18	Prayer In The Park CVPC	Dec 12-18	AFES Mission 2026



How important is it for us to remember that Jesus is the King?

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 Matthew 2:11
11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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 4 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...

Deuteronomy 18



What is one prophecy from the Old Testament that you can always remember?



^{NIV} **Deuteronomy 18:15** ¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.



Jesus is the Prophet 'like Moses', whom Israel were told to "LISTEN TO". He is greater than Moses and his words of prophecy have come true!! But also, he is the embodiment of all prophecy – the prophecies all find their fulfillment IN HIM. We must listen to the prophet Jesus or risk being cut off from God and his people forever.



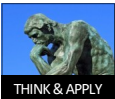
READ DEUTERONOMY 18:14-19

1. According to Moses, who do the 'other nations' listen to?

2. Who are God's people to listen to?

3. The prophet that God raises up—who is he going to be like?

4. What will God call his people to account for? (v.19)



5. What do these Old Testament verses inform us about Jesus' role as 'prophet'?

READ ACTS 3:18-26

6. What is it that has been fulfilled, that God spoke about through his prophets?



7. Where does Jesus fit into what Peter is telling the crowd in Acts 3?



8. What is it that all of the Old Testament prophets have foretold?

READ ACTS 7:37; MATTHEW 21:11; MATTHEW 21:46

9. What indications are there from scripture that Jesus WAS known as a prophet in his time?

Read Hebrews 3:13-19

What happened to those who refused to listen to Moses (and therefore were in fact refusing to listen to God?).

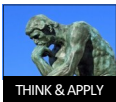
What does this tell you about the importance of listening to Jesus?



READ HEBREWS 3:1-12

10. How does the writer to the Hebrews speak of Moses' prophetic role in history? (v.5)

11. How does Jesus compare with Moses (v.3) and why?



12. What warning is the reader encouraged to heed regarding prophecy, and how does this compare to Deuteronomy 18:19?

READ LUKE 24:25-32

13. On the road to Emmaus, why does Jesus rebuke some of his followers?

READ JOHN 3:16-19; JOHN 3:13-15; LUKE 22:33-34

14. What are some of Jesus' most famous prophecies that have come true, and how significant is it that he also 'fulfills' prophecy?



15. How ought we respond to the wisdom that originates from the Old Testament regarding Jesus' role as The Prophet?

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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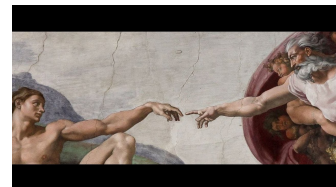


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Oct 30-31	Presbytery Retreat	Dec 13	Jambin Carols
Nov 01	Pelican Point Service		



How important is it for us to listen to God and his prophet Jesus and 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 Luke 24:27
27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

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 always had a plan to bring his gospel message to the Gentiles.

pray also

for Missionaries Keith and Elspeth Campbell as they continue to work for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

for our Sunday School ministry.

for the PCQ.



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

Exodus 19



Have you ever had to act as the go-between for two people who weren't getting along well? What was it like to be the mediator?



^{NIV} **Romans 8:33-34** ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.



Jesus is our Great High Priest, who has done what no priest before him was ever able to do. He has made a sacrifice that pays the penalty for our sin once and for all. He continually intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father. No one would be able to come into the Father's presence without the LORD breaking out against them.

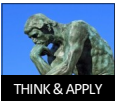


READ EXODUS 19:3-13

1. What does God promise his people if they obey him fully? (v.5)

2. How do the people of God respond when Moses tells them God's promise? (v.8)

3. What does the role of priest entail, and what do you think it means to be a kingdom of priests?



4. What is going on in verses 10-13? (What situation is God dealing with by putting boundaries in place?) Why is it important for us to remember this?

READ EXODUS 19:14-25

5. What role/duty did Moses and Aaron do for the people of God?

READ HEBREWS 9:1-10

6. What was the role of the High Priest and how was this similar to the role Moses was performing at Mt Sinai?



7. What was the Holy Spirit teaching people with the Old Covenant regulations about worship, and what were its shortcomings?



READ HEBREWS 9:11-28

8. How has Jesus changed the priestly role?

Read Romans 8:31-35

What does Jesus' mediation on our behalf look like?



9. What is the special 'mediation' that Jesus has been able to achieve for God's people, and how did he do it?

READ HEBREWS 4:12-16

10. How is Jesus our Great High Priest and what does he do for our relationship with God compared to what Israel had at Mt Sinai?



READ 1PETER 2:4-10

11. As Christians, what kind of 'temple' are we being built into?

12. What is the key virtue that underpins this holy priesthood we are a part of?



13. What should be our response to being God's chosen, royal priesthood? (WHO would a 'royal' priesthood serve?)

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 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 1Peter 2:9
9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

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...

Isaiah 9



What does it mean for parents when they have a capable and competent son?



^{NIV} **Isaiah 9:6** ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Jesus is the PROMISED SON, the very embodiment of the Lord God. He is the dawning light of the Lord's Salvation upon the nations. Not only is he Prophet, Priest, and King—he is God himself.



READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

1. What is going to happen for the nations in 'deep darkness'? (Who do you think Isaiah is referring to here?)

2. What burdensome yoke (v.4) is going to be shattered by the coming son?

3. What names will this son be known by?

READ ISAIAH 7:13-14



4. What sign does God give to his impatient people?

5. What does the name Immanuel mean, and what are the implications if this is the name of the son?

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

6. What does the angel tell Joseph about what to name the boy?



7. What does Matthew tell his readers about prophecy in verse 22-23? (And how does Joseph respond?)



READ MATTHEW 3:14-17 & MATTHEW 17:1-6

8. What hints does God give us that Jesus is his son?

9. What parts of the Old Testament prophecy about 'the son' apply to Jesus?

Read 1John 5:1-20

What things does John tell us about the Son?



10. What are Peter, James and John commanded to do by God, and how might this relate to Deuteronomy 18:15&19; & John 3:18-21?

READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

11. What is OUR relationship to the Son/how should we receive him?



12. What does Paul tell us about the son in verse 9?

13. What has God done for us in Christ (vv.13-15)?

14. How can we avoid making foolish 'life choices' when it comes to matters of faith?



15. How has the Old Testament prophecy about the son, and its fulfilment in Jesus deepened your understanding of him?

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 remember what Jesus has done for us?

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



NIV Colossians 2:6
⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

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 in this last part of 2026.

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...

Isaiah 53

Jesus The Suffering Servant



What is the worst suffering that you or a loved one has endured?



^{NIV} **Isaiah 53:5** ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.



Jesus's suffering and death was always part of God's plan, BUT SO WAS HIS RESURRECTION and ongoing life. His resurrection and status of 'firstborn from among the dead' gives us confidence that we too will rise at the judgment to everlasting life because of our faith and trust in Him.



READ ISAIAH 53:1-12

1. What are some of the qualities the servant of God possesses?

2. How is the servant treated by people?

3. How is the servant treated by God? (vv.4-10)

4. What is going to happen to the servant according to verse 9?



5. What will happen when the time of the servant's suffering is completed? (vv.11-12)

6. What reflection does Isaiah share about what God's righteous servant will achieve?



READ JOHN 17:12

7. What does Jesus indicate about those the Father has given him, and what encouragement should this be for us?



READ JOHN 17:12

8. How horrific and gruelling is crucifixion as a form of punishment and what is the end result?

9. Were there many eyewitnesses to his trial and his death? (And was he innocent or guilty?)

Read Daniel 12:1-3

How long has the day of judgment been understood as a future event in human history?

What is revealed to the prophet Daniel about the day of judgment, and how much of this is relevant for us today?



READ JOHN 20:24-31

10. What ongoing reminders does Jesus carry that point to the suffering he has endured?

11. What is Jesus' main concern and wish for Thomas (and everyone else!)? (v.29)



12. What has happened to Jesus that lines up with the prophecy in Isaiah 53? (esp. vv.10-12)

READ HEBREWS 9:27-28; COLOSSIANS 1:18

13. What does Jesus' return to everlasting life mean for us?

14. What can we expect on the day Jesus returns?

15. What might you say to a non-believer about Jesus' suffering when they don't understand the need for the cross?



16. What kind of a role-model is Jesus to us in his suffering?

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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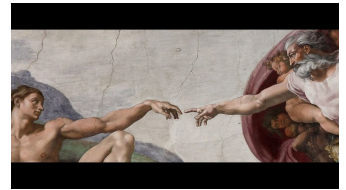


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What are some ways we can think differently about suffering compared to those who don't know Jesus?

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



NIV Hebrews 9:27-28
27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

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.

Pray for our School Chaplains as they continue to serve in our High School, Primary School, and District Schools.

for the Presbyterian Church in Emerald and particularly that they will find a new minister soon, as they seek to reach the Emerald community with the gospel.



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

Jeremiah 31.



What do you think the average Australian thinks about the spiritual forces in the world?



^{NIV} **Jeremiah 31:33** ³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”



God’s plan for his chosen people has always been to send his Spirit amongst us, to teach us, to lead and guide us in life. He will continue to point us and guide us to Jesus, and acts as a deposit from God the Father – guaranteeing our future inheritance in the kingdom of Heaven.



READ JEREMIAH 31:31-34

1. How would you describe the future covenant that God plans to make with his people?
2. How will this covenant be different to the one they were familiar with in Jeremiah’s time?
3. Why is this new covenant arrangement needed?

READ ISAIAH 44:1-8

4. What is God going to do to his people in verse 3?



5. What kind of a response will this cause (v.5)?

6. In verses 6-7, God seems to be testing his people’s understanding and memory about who he is and his unique nature in all creation—what specific role are his people commanded to have (v.8)?



READ JOEL 2:28-30

7. What does Joel prophesy that the Lord will do?



8. What will be the result when the Lord does this??

READ JOHN 14:15-27

9. In verse 15 Jesus speaks of ‘another advocate’ (besides himself!). What does an advocate do?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

How much of what Paul declares to the Ephesians comes directly from the Old Testament?

How do these words from Paul reflect Isaiah 53:1?



10. How long does Jesus say that this advocate will be with us?

11. Who does he reveal that this advocate is? (vv.17, 26)



12. What will this particular advocate do for followers of Jesus?(v.26)

READ ACTS 2:1-21

13. Do we still see the principle of verse 29 at work in the world today?

14. How many different places are represented in this crowd in Jerusalem at the Pentecost celebrations? (v.5)

15. What are they all hearing in their own language? (v.11) - How does this compare with what we saw in Isaiah 44:8?



16. What is Peter's explanation for what is happening? (vv.14ff) And what important fact is he bearing witness to in v.21?

17. What does this outpouring of God's Holy Spirit indicate about the coming 'new covenant' and how does this impact 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)

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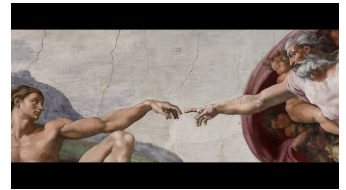


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What are some ways we can live the kind of life God calls us to live?

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



NIV Ephesians 1:13-14
13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

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...

Isaiah 25 .



What is it that often makes 'false teachings' seem plausible?



Isaiah 25:7-8 ^{NIV} ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.



The rich picture of a wedding banquet comes from the old testament. Included in the picture is a victory over enemies, a triumphant feast, and a beautiful relationship that is being celebrated/begun, that extends into eternity.



READ ISAIAH 25:6-9

1. What is being prepared on the mountain and who is it going to be for?

2. What is going to be celebrated? (What is the thing that is going to be destroyed forever?)

3. What 'other' kind of compassion will God show to his people(v.8), and what might this have to do with Isaiah 53:6?

4. What will people say when the Lord wipes away their tears?



5. What relationship is being celebrated here?

READ PSALM 23:1-6

6. In verses 1-4, how well is king David ALREADY being looked after by God?



7. What kind of a celebration/event is being pictured here and who is it in the presence of?



8. What relationship is being celebrated and rejoiced in by king David? (v.6)

READ JOHN 2:1-11

9. What is Jesus' first miracle and what does this tell us about him and his character?

Read Revelation 21:1-5

What do the voice from the throne say, and how close are they to what is promised in Exodus 19?

What comfort is there from God for his people and how does this compare with what we saw in Isaiah 25?



10. What does verse 11 tell us about the miracles and what they do?

READ REVELATION 19:1-9; REVELATION 21:1-5

11. What event is John seeing in his vision/what occasion has arrived? (v.7)



12. Who is the bride and what are they given to wear?

13. How does this scene compare with what David sings of in Psalm 23, and what Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah chapter 25?



14. What relationship is being treasured and honoured here, and what does this have to do with 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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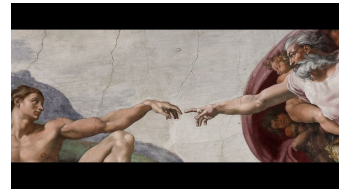


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What are some ways we can prepare for the return of King Jesus?

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



NIV Revelation 21:4
4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

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...

Genesis 22 .



What are some of the biggest blessings that we can receive in life?



^{NIV} **Genesis 18:18** ¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.



The blessing of all nations begins through the promise to Abraham, and comes to fruition in Jesus. **ANYONE** who puts their faith and trust in Jesus **WILL BE SAVED!**

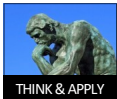


READ GENESIS 18:17-19, AND GENESIS 22:11-18

1. What are the promises God makes to Abraham?

2. What two events form the backdrop of these two chapters, and how does Abraham demonstrate his faith in each (e.g. Gen 22:18)?

3. Instead of sacrificing his own son, what does Abraham find as a suitable substitute in order to worship the Lord?



4. What does verse 15 indicate about the way the Galatian Christians have been behaving, and what will this result in?

READ GALATIANS 3:7-14

5. As God's people, what is our relationship to Abraham?



6. How is the Gospel announced to Abraham?



7. What will be the outcome for those who stubbornly refuse Jesus and continue to rely on their own efforts to satisfy God?

8. What does Jesus' act of redemption do for us (v.14)?

9. What do we receive 'by faith' (v.14)?

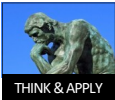
Read Revelation 15:4

What are all the nations going to do and why?



READ ACTS 3:14-26

10. At the beginning of Peter's speech (vv.14&15) are the crowd identified as friends of God or enemies of God?



11. In verse 17, what does Peter reveal that the Old Testament says in regard to the events leading to Jesus' death?

12. What is Peter's suggested remedy for the situation (what is he bearing witness to)?

13. What does Peter say about the resurrection of Jesus and it's relationship to the 'blessing of all nations'? (i.e. How does the blessing work/what is it?)

14. How is this blessing continued in the life of the church today?



15. Is there anyone you could bless 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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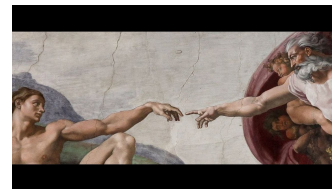


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What are some ways we can remember and celebrate God's compassion and mercy for us in Jesus?

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



NIV Acts 16:30-31
30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

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 participate in our General Assembly of Australia

for the ministries of L&C; Glen and Liz; Paul Smith; Lachlan Dingwall; & 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...

Daniel 7 .



Have you ever been into a court room? What things were good, and what didn't you like about court?



^{NIV} **Daniel 7:13-14** ¹³ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

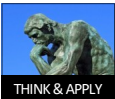


Jesus will return to judge all peoples, and has been given every power and authority to do so. Keep your eyes fixed on Him!



READ DANIEL 7:8-14

1. What scene is Daniel witnessing in 'his vision at night'?
2. Who is there?
3. What is intimidating about this court room?
4. What does the son of man look like and what is his 'mode of transport'?



5. What tasks and rights and privileges is the son of man given by the ancient of days?

READ MATTHEW 24:25-35

6. How obvious is the return of the son of man going to be?



7. According to Jesus, how will the people of the world respond to his coming/his return?



8. Who will Jesus be gathering together at that time?

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

9. What has Jesus received?

Read Revelation 1:1-8

What is the reason given for writing the book of Revelation?

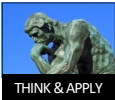
What does John remind us of about Jesus' role and our role in verses 5&6?

How will Jesus return, and who is going to see it?



10. What commission/command does Jesus give his disciples/us?

11. How will following this command set us up for his return?



READ ACTS 1:1-11

12. What does Jesus say about the restoration of the kingdom(v.6)?

13. What task does Jesus give his disciples here in verse 8, and is it the same, or a different task to the Matthew 28 commission?

14. How do the two men describe Jesus' return to the disciples?



15. What things are we encouraged to do, knowing how Jesus will return, and what his return will accomplish?

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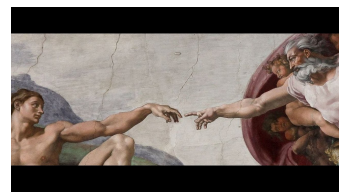


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What are some ways we can remember and celebrate God's compassion and mercy for us in Jesus?

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



NIV Luke 17:24
²⁴ For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

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 the teaching of Paul, and that 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

for the work of the
 Presbyterian Inland Mission.

for the work of the Far East
 Broadcasting Company as they seek to broadcast Christian media to persecuted Christians around the world.



To review our series re-read ...

Our Weekly Old Testament Passages .



Oct 05	King's Birthday	Nov 15	VIP-Net SEMI-FORMAL
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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.