

# EVERY MEMBER CONNECTED



**SMALL GROUP STUDIES**





## INTRODUCTION

For the first 5 weeks of 2026, we will be looking at God's Word together as we think about what it means to be a member of his church. There are 5 areas of life that we want to really encourage every member of St Paul's and St James' with over this year as we seek to be transformed by God's Holy Spirit, and as we reach a world who needs to know the grace of the Gospel of Jesus.

As most small groups do not commence until term 1 begins, these are personal studies for every member to help us prepare for the year ahead. Take 30 minutes a week in January on your own, with a friend, or with your small group, to pray for God to prepare you for the year ahead and to prepare us as a Church for the work he is calling us to.

As we seek to reach **every community, every household and every generation**, we pray that every member of our Church family will be committed to:



## **OUR SUNDAY GATHERINGS**

A member of one of our 4 main services  
(or online when we are unable to attend)



## **DISCIPLESHIP**

A member in a small group  
or 1-1 bible reading partnership



## **SERVING**

As God leads and equips you



## **GIVING**

For the work of the Gospel and the  
future of God's ministry through us



## **MISSION**

Personally connected to supported  
missions prayerfully, financially, with  
our hearts and hands

Please pray for us as a Church, as we begin a new year, that God may speak to each one of us through his Word and by his Spirit, to respond to his call on our lives to be committed to him and transformed by him.



## WEEK ONE

# EVERY MEMBER SERVING

### Prepare:

What does it mean to serve someone?

What is your motive for serving other people?

### Read:

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

### Engage:

1. Choose three words or phrases that stand out for you in this passage. Why do they stand out?

2. What are the things that separate us in a church family – the things that may stop us from being united?

a. What can you do to help us have more unity as one body?

3. What do verses 12-20 tell us about the importance of EVERY member of God's church?

a. Do you feel like an important part of the body?

4. What do verses 21-26 tell us about the importance of every member?

a. Are there people in our church family who may feel unimportant in their roles?

b. What can we do to encourage every member to know they are equally as important as any other member?

5. Verses 27-31 are often interpreted as talking about the importance of roles. But in fact, they could more helpfully be seen as an order of establishment by God. That is, God placed people in these particular roles (apostle, prophets, teachers, etc), first of all, to establish the church. They were necessary to launch the Church. It is clear from v29-30 that we are not expected to have "all the gifts". And we are all important.

a. If you do not possess one of the particular listed gifts in these verses, what does that mean?

b. What are the greater gifts? (Hint: you may need to read into the next chapter!)

## **Challenge:**

6. Where will you serve this year in God's Church?

7. Do you need help to find that place to serve? If so, who will you talk to this week?

8. How can you encourage another person to serve, and to encourage them that they are important, no matter how small or large they feel their role might be?

9. My commitment to serving in 2026:

## **Pray for our church:**

Pray that every member may be led to serve in the area(s) God has gifted them in and that every member would know they are valued in this.



## WEEK TWO

# EVERY MEMBER ON MISSION

### Prepare:

What is God's mission?

Do you feel a part of God's mission?

### Read:

Mark 6:1-13

### Engage:

1. Choose three words or phrases that stand out for you in this passage. Why do they stand out?

2. What are the things that we do in mission as a church?

a. What areas of our church mission excite you as a member of our church?

3. In verse 1-6, Jesus' teaching seems to be amazing to people. But when they found out he was a "local boy", they took offense at him and he could not serve there.

a. Why do you think they didn't accept him after finding out he was from their home town?

b. Do you/we ever treat people a similar way in ministry?

4. In verses 6-11, what was the previous preparation undertaken by the disciples for the mission Jesus was sending them on? (You may need to look at previous chapters)

5. Think about the mission work we undertake these days:

- Agency missions like CMS, BCA, ENC, SIM (overseas and local.)
- Local missions like Scripture in Schools
- Specialist mission work like music mission
- Social justice and welfare missions like Compassion, IJM, Soul Eats kitchen.
- Other... (list some here)

a. What mission work resonates more with you?

b. Is the mission work you connect with more important? Why or why not?

6. In verses 12-13, what is the main work in their mission?

a. Was there a priority?

b. What was the result?

c. Should we just do exactly what they did? Why or why not?

**Challenge:**

7. My commitment to missions this year?

a. Prayerfully:

b. Financially:

c. If you're able - on the ground (actual hands on)

**Pray for our church:**

Pray that God will instil in every member a heart for the world outside of our own backyard, and that he would raise up from among us more gospel workers.



## WEEK THREE

# EVERY MEMBER IN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

### Prepare:

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

### Read:

John 15:1-17

### Engage:

1. Choose three words or phrases that stand out for you in this passage. Why do they stand out?

2. Is there a difference between a “disciple” and a “follower”?

3. What do you think Jesus mean by saying he is the “true” vine? (verse 1) Are there false vines?

4. What does it mean to bear fruit? (verse 2)

a. What fruit do you bear for Jesus?

b. What does it feel like to be “pruned” by Jesus?

5. The word “remain” is used many times in this passage. It can also be translated as “abide”- it means to continue. To stay. To endure.

a. What do you think are the challenges with remaining in Jesus? What are the things that pull us away from him?

b. If we do not remain in him, like a branch of a tree, we cannot bear fruit. What could we do if we find we are not bearing much fruit?

6. Verse 7 seems to give us free wishes! What is the context of this promise? What is the qualification over what we ask for?

7. In verses 9-17, Jesus moves to a heavy focus on love. Looking at these verses, how would you define the love that Jesus is talking about? How would you explain it to someone else?

## **Challenge:**

8. My commitment to discipleship this year:

a. What steps can you take to be intentionally disciplined in this year ahead? (Are you in a small group?)

b. Are you in a position to disciple someone else in this year ahead?

c. If you are a parent, how are you intentionally discipling your own children? If so, how?

## **Pray for our church:**

Pray that every member may be disciplined well in faith – that we would become more and more like Jesus, each bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.



## WEEK FOUR

# EVERY MEMBER IN SUNDAY WORSHIP

### Prepare:

Is Church on Sunday a big deal?

### Read:

Hebrews 10:19–25

### Engage:

1. Choose three words or phrases that stand out for you in this passage. Why do they stand out?

2. What are the different ways that Christians “meet together” as God’s people?

3. The temple of the Old Covenant (in the Old Testament) had a most holy place (the holy of holies) where only the high priest could enter once a year to make a sacrifice for the sins of the people. A large curtain separated this part of the temple from the rest of it. Under the New Covenant, Jesus is now the high priest (his role), and the sacrifice (blood), and the curtain (his body). We are “new covenant” people.

How does this change the way you read the Old Testament?

4. In verse 19–23, the writer of Hebrews is talking about “our” relationship. He’s addressing us as God’s people, together. We, together, have a special relationship with God. What are 5 amazing things from these verses about that relationship?

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

5. Verse 25 is often quoted alone – our instruction to not give up meeting together – our instruction to keep worshipping together. But verses 23 and 24 are important to read alongside this.

a. Verse 23 gives us what reason for meeting together?

b. Verse 24 adds what reason for meeting together?

c. Verse 25 adds what reason for meeting together?

6. Hebrews is written to a community. And we are that community today. What difference does it make to remind each other of this – that we are not on our own but are part of a “people of God”?

### **Challenge:**

7. When you meet together with other Christians, do you do what you've answered in question 5?

If you struggle with corporate worship, have you shared this with someone at church or with your pastor?

8. Do you have the "full assurance" that verse 22 speaks of? If not, who can you talk with about this?

9. My commitment to meeting with my brothers and sisters this year

### **Pray for our church:**

Pray that every member may be in fellowship with others – not only on Sundays but throughout the week – that we would not forget our core reasons for meeting together – to glorify God and to encourage each other.



## WEEK FIVE EVERY MEMBER GIVING

### **Prepare:**

What is your motivation for giving financially?

### **Read:**

Luke 20:45-21:4

### **Engage:**

1. Choose three words or phrases that stand out for you in this passage. Why do they stand out?

2. Who does our society value, and listen to?

3. Who does Jesus value, and listen to?

4. In Luke 20:45-47, what do the teachers of the law want out of life?

a. How do they get it?

b. And what will they receive in the end?

5. In Luke 21:1-4, what does the poor widow want out of life?

a. How does she get it?

b. And what will she receive in the end?

6. Why does Jesus seem to have such love and affection for the poor in this world and such contempt for the privileged? Does he just not like rich people, or is there something more going on here?

7. In these two stories, who do you identify more with? Why?

a. Who do you want to identify more with?

**Challenge:**

1. What do you want out of this life?

a. How does your spending and your investments, reflect this?

b. Have you ever tracked where you spend your income? Even what percentage you spend on things? For example:

% on food =

% on housing =

% on savings =

% on entertainment =

% on investment =

% on giving =

9. God knows how you give. Have you considered sharing how you manage your giving (not necessarily how much you give) with another Christian?

a. How are you holding yourself accountable for faithful giving?

10. My commitment to financial giving this year:

**Pray for our church:**

Pray that every member may be convicted with God's heart of generosity. Pray that we will be focussed on His great kingdom and that we may continue to grow and grow in generosity as our hearts are transformed.

# RECHARGE



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**7:30pm**

**Details to come!**