

term one 2026



the kingdom of grace



small group studies

term one schedule

FEB 2ND Recharge Supper - 7pm in the CEC

FEB 9TH - 15TH Kingdom of Grace#1 - Grace Breaks In

What's on this week?

Feb 11th - Young Adults Night

Feb 14th - Legacy Partners Breakfast

Feb 15th - Newcomers Lunch

Feb 15th - The Commons

FEB 16TH - 22ND Kingdom of Grace#2 - Grace For Sinners

What's on this week?

Feb 22nd - Baptisms

FEB 23RD - MAR 1ST NO STUDY THIS WEEK

What's on this week?

Feb 24th - Serve Night

Mar 1st - Newcomers Afternoon Tea

Mar 1st - Confirmation Service at 6pm

MAR 2ND - 8TH Kingdom of Grace#3 - The Cost of Grace

What's on this week?

Mar 2nd - Women's Night

Mar 3rd - Seniors' Friendship Group

Mar 7th - Men's Breakfast

Mar 8th - Jesus Club Church

Mar 8th - YA Welcome Supper

MAR 9TH – 15TH Kingdom of Grace#4 – The Power of Grace

What's on this week?

Mar 10th – Prime Time

Mar 10th – Annual General Meeting

Mar 15th – The Commons

Mar 15th – Link missionaries Chris & Erin visiting

MAR 16TH – 22ND Kingdom of Grace#5 – The Grace of the Provider

What's on this week?

Mar 19th – Retiring with Purpose

Mar 19th – 22nd Kelso Mission

Mar 21st – Prayer Breakfast with Chris & Erin

Mar 22nd – Parents Day at Kids Alive

Mar 22nd – YA 25+ Hang out

MAR 23RD – 29TH Kingdom of Grace #6 – The Ultimate Grace

What's on this week?

Mar 25th – Prayer Night

Mar 28th – Easter Cantata

MAR 30TH – APR 2ND Kingdom of Grace#7 – What to do with Grace

APR 3RD – 5TH EASTER WEEKEND

What's on this week?

Apr 3rd – Good Friday Services 8am/10am

Apr 3rd – Young Adults “The Big Thing”

Apr 5th – Easter Sunday services 8am/10am/6pm

school holiday break

- **Easter Camp** will run Wed 8th–Fri 10th April.
 - Our **Mission series** on Local Mission and Global Mission will be on Sunday 19th Apr, Sunday 26th Apr and Sunday 3rd May
 - **Recharge Breakfast** will be on Saturday 2nd May
- *note that Recharge is in week 2 of Term due to ANZAC Day.

series overview and vision

KINGDOM OF GRACE

2026 is our year of “hearts transformed by grace”.

Our prayer is that every member of St Paul’s will more deeply know the grace of God and be transformed by that grace.

God’s grace is not cheap. It is costly. As we begin Term 1 in Luke’s gospel, we will explore deeply the great cost of God’s grace in sending Jesus to save a world that rejected him. In every story from Luke, we see our God of grace reaching out to us, but also calling us to reflect his grace in the world around us.

Our prayer is that this gospel of grace will transform us to be people of grace, who participate in the kingdom of grace, and who reflect Jesus as we seek to reach every community, every household, and every generation.

introduction to the Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke is the longest of the four Gospels and the only one with a sequel. Together with the book of Acts, Luke tells one continuous story – from the life and ministry of Jesus to the spread of the gospel through the early church.

Luke carefully investigated eyewitness testimony in order to write an orderly and reliable account, so that believers might be certain of what they have been taught (Luke 1:1–4). From the beginning, Luke presents Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises revealed in the Law and the Prophets.

A key theme of Luke's Gospel is God's plan to save the lost and to extend salvation to all people.

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
(Luke 19:10)**

Throughout the Gospel, Luke shows Jesus' heart for sinners, outsiders, and the overlooked. At the same time, Jesus consistently calls people to repentance and to a costly kind of discipleship – a life of wholehearted allegiance to him:

**“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”
(Luke 9:23)**

Luke invites us to see who Jesus is, what God has done through Him, and how His followers are to live as faithful disciples within God's **KINGDOM OF GRACE**.

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #1

grace breaks in

LUKE 4:1-21

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

What movie, book, or TV show do you quote more than any other?

unpack

Brief context:

The first two chapters of Luke focus on the miraculous birth of Jesus alongside the birth of John the Baptist. Chapter 3 is years later, with John preaching repentance and baptism as he prepares the way for the Messiah. In chapter 4, we witness Luke's first account of Jesus' public ministry.

Read Luke 4:1-13

1. What stands out to you from this passage?

2. Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" and was "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness. Why do you think Luke emphasises the work of the Spirit?

3. Jesus faced temptation and fasted for 40 days. "40" is a familiar number biblically, what events does this point us to and why is it significant?

4. Jesus faces 3 temptations from Satan. Read the following passages, how do they add depth and understanding to the responses of Jesus?

Turn stone to bread – Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Inherit all kingdoms – Deuteronomy 6:10-13

Test God – Deuteronomy 6:16 and Exodus 17:5-7

Read Luke 4:14–21

5. This is Luke's first account of Jesus' public ministry. He reads from Isaiah 61:1–3. How does this reading bring the concept of grace to Jesus' mission?

explore

6. In v21 Jesus says, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". With all of Jesus' ministry in mind, is this truly fulfilled?

7. In these 21 verses, Jesus speaks five times: four quotations from the Old Testament and a fifth statement highlighting fulfillment. Why is this significant?

8. If Luke 4:1–21 is the prelude and the launch of Jesus' public ministry, what does this tell us about faithful discipleship and ministry?

apply

9. Luke 4:16: "on the sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom". Jesus participated in the ordinary practices of faith. What routine practices could you adopt to strengthen your faith?

10. Each time Jesus was tempted, He responded with God's Word. Biblical conviction formed the foundation of His resistance. What sins are you tempted toward, and what passages can speak to those temptations? Remember God's grace, forgiveness, and restoration when we fall.

11. Jesus announced a new covenant of grace for all people. Which areas of your life fail to reflect the reality of this Kingdom of grace?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Feb 14th – Legacy Partners Breakfast

Feb 15th – Newcomers Lunch

Feb 15th – The Commons

Coming up on **Sunday 22nd Feb** we have our baptism services – please contact Pat Jones if you haven't been baptised and would like to be.

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #2

grace for sinners

LUKE 5:17–32

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

What is the best meal you have ever eaten and who did you share it with?

unpack

Brief context:

In the passages between our readings, Luke's account showed Jesus removing spirits, healing the sick, and calling the first disciples. Luke regularly reminds us that Jesus is also devoted to preaching in synagogues and elsewhere:

But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:43–44

Read Luke 5:17–26

1. What stands out to you from this passage?

2. News of Jesus' healing and teaching ministry had spread, and crowds had begun to gather. What is significant about this crowd?

3. Why does Jesus' first statement to the paralysed man (v20) cause such a reaction and be considered blasphemy (v21)?

4. As Jesus asks a question in v22, He reveals the unspoken hearts of his audience. In pairs, share how would you answer Jesus' question.

Read Luke 5:27-32

5. What is the significance of a tax collector and why do the pharisees and teachers of the law group them with sinners? Is there a modern equivalent?

explore

6. This term, we are looking at the Kingdom of Grace. Spend some time discussing how each of these three moments help us understand the grace of Jesus and the shape of His Kingdom:

MOMENT 1 – Jesus explaining that He has the power and authority to forgive sins (v24)

MOMENT 2 – Jesus calling Levi, a tax collector, to be his disciple, saying “follow me” (v27)

MOMENT 3 – Jesus enjoyed a banquet with “tax collectors and sinners” (v29)

7. Jesus states “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”.

Take 5 minutes to yourself, reflect on how this statement should shape your view of your belonging in the Kingdom of Grace and your individual mission?

8. Back together as a group, how should the same statement shape our view of Church and our collective mission?

apply

9. What does it look like, practically, to live as someone whose sins are forgiven?

10. Levi is called to be a disciple directly from a place of public shame. Where do we still rank people by respectability before or even after receiving the grace of forgiveness? Who would it feel uncomfortable for Jesus to call today, and what does that expose in us?

11. Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, showing them that they belong. What does your table communicate about who belongs?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Feb 22nd – Baptisms at 10am and 6pm.

important note

There is no bible study for next week. We are having a church-wide event called **Serve Night**. We would love to see you all there!



WHAT IS SERVE NIGHT?

An event for EVERYONE who serves in ANY ministry at St Paul's, along with those who call St Paul's home and haven't yet stepped into serving. Serve Night is an opportunity to come together as one team, to be encouraged, to be invested in and to consider God's heart for us collectively as His Church.

Wondering if this is for you? This is your official invitation; we would love to see you there!

Time/Date: 24th Feb, 7–9pm

Location: St Paul's Castle Hill main church building.

If you are not yet serving in a volunteer role at St Paul's, but would like to find out more, we encourage you to chat with Emma Wynn-Jones who is our Integration Co-ordinator. She can help you to discover where you might best be able to use your gifts. You can contact her at:

emma.wynn-jones@stpauls.church

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #3

the cost of grace

LUKE 9:18–36

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

unpack

Brief context:

Jesus has had a growing public ministry. In this chapter the story shifts, Jesus' journey turns toward Jerusalem, and the tone moves toward suffering, costly discipleship and glory.

Read Luke 9:18–26

1. Peter confesses Jesus as "God's Messiah." What does his answer mean and how does it compare to the answers of the crowds?

2. How and why does Jesus immediately redefine what Peter's confession means?

3. If this is the moment where Jesus makes the cross unavoidable, what does it rule out about the kind of Messiah we would prefer him to be?

4. Which part of Jesus' description of discipleship (vv23–26) most clashes with how people commonly imagine following him? Why?

Read Luke 9:27–36

5. In v18–26 Jesus establishes His identity as God's Messiah and explains that means suffering and sacrifice. How does Luke's depiction of the Transfiguration influence how we understand those realities?

6. Moses and Elijah speak with Jesus about His "departure" (exodus). Why is it significant that glory is linked to suffering, not relief from it?

7. The voice says, "Listen to Him." In context, what have the disciples just been told that they now need to listen to?

explore

8. Peter was correct in his confession but lacked understanding of what it means for Jesus to be “God’s Messiah”. In what ways might we be guilty of having the right label for Jesus but the wrong expectations of what that means for our lives?

9. We are in a series called the Kingdom of Grace, how do you reconcile passages like what we have read today about Jesus and His followers suffering, with the idea of grace?

apply

10. What kind of Messiah does Jesus insist on being — and what kind of disciples does that create?

11. Luke fuses three moments together to form one argument: if this is who I am (messiah), then this is what must happen (suffering), and this is the cost of following me (take up your cross). Does your life reflect the cost of following Jesus as He describes it in this passage? Why/Why not?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Mar 2nd – Women's Night
Mar 3rd – Seniors' Friendship Group
Mar 7th – Men's Breakfast
Mar 8th – Jesus Club Church
Mar 8th – YA Welcome Supper

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #4

the power of grace

LUKE 10:25–37

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

Have you ever experienced a random act of kindness, or a moment of kindness from strangers?

unpack

Brief context:

Just before this passage, Jesus has sent out the seventy-two and rejoiced that God reveals His kingdom not to the wise and learned, but to the humble and receptive. Luke has been emphasising that participation in the Kingdom of Grace does not depend on status or expertise, but on rightly receiving God's truth in Christ. This tension frames the expert in the law's approach to Jesus.

Read Luke 10:22–29

1. What is the difference between the lawyer's first question and his second — and what does that difference reveal about what he is really trying to justify?

2. Jesus affirms the lawyer's first answer as correct. Why might that answer feel inadequate or unsettling if we were asked to explain salvation today?

Read Luke 10:30–37

3. Why do you think Jesus includes a priest and a Levite at all? What might the story lose if they weren't there?

4. Why is it important that Jesus makes the rescuer a Samaritan rather than someone more acceptable or familiar?

OPTIONAL EXTRA: Why do you think Jesus includes so much detail about the Samaritan's actions?

explore

5. What does Jesus' final question (v36) do to answer the questions that prompted the parable?

6. Where does this parable make righteousness feel less manageable than we might like and why is that uncomfortable?

OPTIONAL EXTRA: In which character do you see traits of Jesus in, and in which do you see traits of yourself in?

apply

7. Jesus' answer seems to ignore the question of "who is my neighbour," and speaks instead to what loving your neighbour in a gracious, messy, costly, and plan-altering way looks like. The simple command that follows is "go and do likewise".

-Spend some time reflecting on how you measure up to this command and what reasons do you most naturally reach for to excuse yourself from costly mercy?

-What kinds of people or situations most quickly trigger your instinct to step back, pass by, or justify not getting involved — and how does the parable expose those instincts?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Mar 10th – Prime Time

Mar 10th – Annual General Meeting

Mar 15th – The Commons

Mar 15th – Link missionaries Chris & Erin visiting

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #5

the grace of the provider

LUKE 12:22–40

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

unpack

Brief context:

Jesus is on the road to Jerusalem and is continuing to teach what it means to be His disciple. Today's passage is part of a long public sermon in which Jesus speaks to growing opposition and misunderstandings. Our passage follows Jesus speaking to the rich fool, warning him, the crowd, and the disciples to avoid greed and false security.

Read Luke 12:22–34

1. Jesus commands His disciples not to worry, then gives multiple reasons for that command. As a group, create a physical list of the arguments Jesus uses.

2. Jesus links worry to faith (v28) and fear (v32). How does that reframe the way we usually think about anxiety?

3. How does this passage portray God's relationship and interactions with people — and how does that compare with your own experience of God?

Read Luke 12:35–40

4. If the first reading calls us not to worry, what does this reading call us to be?

5. What is unexpected or reversed in verse 38, and how does that shape what readiness looks like?

explore

6. According to Jesus, what does worry reveal about what we are trusting God with or struggling to trust him with?

7. If readiness for Jesus' return is meant to shape ordinary discipleship, what kinds of decisions, big and small, should it influence?

apply

8. Looking back at the list, which of Jesus' arguments speak most directly to your own worries and why?

9. Do we treat our "modern worries" as exceptions that allow us to sidestep Jesus' teaching here?

10. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." One helpful way to consider where our treasure lies is to ask what we would struggle most to have taken away from us. With that in mind, where would you say your treasure is?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Mar 19th – Retiring with Purpose

Mar 19th – 22nd Kelso Mission

Mar 21st – Prayer Breakfast with Chris & Erin

Mar 22nd – Parents Day at Kids Alive

Mar 22nd – YA 25+ Hang out

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #6

the ultimate grace

LUKE 15:11-31

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

What is the most valuable item you have lost? Did you find it again?

unpack

Brief context:

This parable is not standalone; it follows two shorter parables about what has been lost and then found, which illuminate both God's joy and the resentment of the religious. Jesus tells the parable of the lost son in response to the Pharisees and teachers of the law criticising the way He welcomes and shares meals with sinners and tax collectors.

Read Luke 15:11-31

1. What is so offensive about "Father, give me my share of the estate"? Can you think of a modern equivalent?
2. Why do you think v15-16 hit hard for Luke's audience?

3. What difference do you notice between the son's planned confession (v18–19) and what he manages to say to his father (v21–22)? Why might Jesus include that difference?

explore

4. The father's response to the younger son's return is costly, public, and extravagant. If you imagine yourself in his place, what would keep you from responding that way, and why?

5. Do you think any of the older brother's frustrations or actions were justified?

6. Why would the father's words to the older brother (vv31–32) have landed so powerfully with Luke's original audience?

apply

7. Where do you recognise the younger son's posture in your own life, particularly the desire for freedom, control, or distance from the father, and what does repentance look like there now?

8. Where do you recognise the older son's posture – obedience without joy, resentment toward grace, or a sense of being owed – and how does the father's invitation challenge that posture?

9. We often assume God's feelings for us mirror the way we feel about ourselves. When you come to God in repentance, what posture do you expect from Him toward you, and how does the father in this parable challenge or confirm that?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Mar 25th – Prayer Night

Mar 28th – Easter Cantata

prayer guide

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

LORDS SUPPER FORM 1

Confession:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you made all things, and you call everyone to account.

With shame we confess the sins we have committed against you, in thought, word and deed.

We rightly deserve your condemnation.

We turn from our sins and are truly sorry for them; they are a burden we cannot bear.

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all that is past.

Enable us to serve and please you in newness of life, to your honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution (edited):

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who has promised to forgive the sins of all who turn to him with repentance and faith, have mercy on us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins, strengthen us to do your will, and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance:

Hear these words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ.

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'.

Matthew 11:28

Assurance (continued)

'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.'

John 3:16

The apostle Paul said: 'Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'.

1 Timothy 1:15

The apostle John said: 'If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.'

1 John 2:1–2

THE VALLEY OF VISION

"CONFESSION AND PETITION"

I have sinned times without number,
and been guilty of pride and unbelief,
of failure to find thy mind in thy Word,
of neglect to seek thee in my daily life.
My transgressions and short-comings
present me with a list of accusations,
But I bless thee that they will not stand against me,
for all have been laid on Christ;
Go on to subdue my corruptions,
and grant me grace to live above them.
Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings
of the mind bring my spirit into subjection,
but do thou rule over me in liberty and power.

KINGDOM OF GRACE STUDY #7

what to do with grace

LUKE 15:11-31

check-in

Do you have any thoughts or reflections from church on Sunday?

unpack

Brief context: This parable is told as Jesus nears Jerusalem. It comes immediately after Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, where salvation is declared to have come today and a tax collector is named a son of Abraham. Jesus is speaking to those travelling with Him as expectations about His mission continue to sharpen.

Read Luke 19:11-27

1. Luke tells us why Jesus gives this parable in v11. What expectations are present in the crowd at this moment, and why do they matter as Jesus approaches Jerusalem?

2. What role does the delay play in the story?

3. How does the third servant understand the king, and how does that shape his response?

explore

4. What does the king entrust to his servants during his absence, and how does he distinguish between different responses to his authority?
5. What uncomfortable questions does this parable raise about authority, judgment, and accountability?
6. What is striking about the king's response to the servants who act faithfully during his absence, and how does that shape the tone of the parable?
7. How does v27 relate to the rest of the parable, and why does Jesus end the story this way?

apply

8. If this parable describes life during the king's absence, what does it expose about how you relate to Jesus' authority in this time and the judgment to come?

9. If this parable describes the time between Jesus' departure and return, what has He entrusted to us as his followers, and what would faithfulness look like when His authority is real, but His rule is not yet visible?

pray

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, for your group's link missionary, the events below, and the weekly ministries at St Paul's.

what's on this week?

Apr 3rd – Good Friday Services 8am/10am

Apr 3rd – Young Adults "The Big Thing"

Apr 5th – Easter Sunday services 8am/10am/6pm