



God of transforming
GRACE

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

small
groups
LIFE TOGETHER

TERM THREE SCHEDULE

11th – 16th May

God of Transforming Grace #1 –
Grace Before Law

What's on this week?

May 11th – Men's Night

May 17th – Newcomers Lunch

May 17th – The Commons

18th – 23rd May

God of Transforming Grace #2 –
Grace that Leads to Love

What's on this week?

May 20th – Good News Prayer Meeting

May 23rd – Big Play Out

May 24th – Pentecost Sunday

25th – 30th May

God of Transforming Grace #3 –
Grace for the Stubborn and the Broken

What's on this week?

May 26th – Prime Time

May 27th – State of Origin @ Church

May 30th – Legacy Partners Breakfast

May 31st – Jesus Club Church

May 31st – Baptism Sunday

1st – 6th June

God of Transforming Grace #4 –
Grace that Shapes Community

What's on this week?

June 3rd – YA Pure Praise Night

8th – 13th June

God of Transforming Grace #5 –
Grace that Looks Forward

What's on this week?

June 13th – 45 In The Dark

June 14th – Step into Serving Fair

LOOKING AHEAD

June Events

June 17th – Women’s Night

June 20th – Help at Home

June 21st – The Commons

June 26th – Hills Chillz

June 28th – Church Picnic

July Events

July 19th – The Commons

July 25th – Recharge Breakfast

July 26th – Dr Darrell L. Bock Guest Speaker

July 28th – Whole Church Teaching Night

July 31st – Crossfire Term 3 Starts

Dr Darrell L. Bock

* Dr Darrell L. Bock will be joining us at St Paul’s Castle Hill in July. He is a Senior Research Professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary and Executive Director of Cultural Engagement at the Hendricks Center. He has authored or edited more than 45 books and has written for major outlets including the Los Angeles Times.

He will be speaking at the following events:

Recharge Breakfast – July 25

A training morning for small group leaders as we prepare to begin our series in Galatians. All are welcome.

Sunday Services – July 26

Whole Church Teaching Night – July 28

An opportunity for our whole church to gather, be encouraged, and be challenged from God’s word.

SERIES INTRODUCTION

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE

Deuteronomy is a covenant renewal shaped by God's faithfulness, a call to remember His grace and live in light of it. It looks back over His saving acts and forward with hope.

In these five weeks we will follow God's grace as He shapes identity, worship, and practical life for His people, calling them to reflect Him in the world.

"Deuteronomy" means "second law", not a new law but a restating of God's word for a people already rescued. Here, law is not set against love; it flows from it. God rescues His people from slavery in Egypt; His commands come as a call to new life that flows from that rescue. The aim is not moral achievement but transformed hearts: people who love the Lord, love one another, and live distinctively as a testimony to God's faithfulness.

Across this series we will see the same pattern: grace precedes obligation, grace empowers faithful living, grace disciplines and restores, grace reorients economic and social life, and grace points forward to final renewal.

Each week we will read, reflect, and consider how the God who went before His people Israel also goes before us, His people of the new covenant, calling us into a relationship that changes how we worship, serve, and live as people transformed by His grace.

When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

Deuteronomy 32:45-47

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #1

GRACE BEFORE LAW

DEUTERONOMY 1:1-8; 1:26-36; 4:1-2

WELCOME

What stood out to you most from Sunday? As we started a new series, did it raise any questions for you?

EXPLORE

Brief Context:

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Bible and the final book of the Torah. After God rescued Israel from Egypt, they spent a year at Mount Sinai as He established His covenant with them. From there, Israel began their journey through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. However, because of their unbelief and unfaithfulness, the generation that experienced the exodus did not enter the land.

In Deuteronomy, Moses addresses a new generation on the edge of the Promised Land. He retells their story and represents God's law, calling them to live faithfully under the covenant He has already established with them as they prepare to enter the Promised Land.

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8

1. What do the opening verses (v1–5) tell us about Moses' audience, their location, and what he is about to speak about?

2. In v6–8, Moses summarises what God said to Israel at Horeb over that period. What does he highlight in this summary, and why might he begin here?

Read Deuteronomy 1:26–29

3. What went wrong when Israel reached the land, and what does that reveal about their response to God?

Read Deuteronomy 1:30–36

4. What does Moses highlight about God's actions, and how do the people respond? What is God's response in return?

Read Deuteronomy 4:1–2

5. In 4:1–2, who is being addressed, and what responsibility is being placed on them?

REFLECT

6. Why do you think Moses speaks about the previous generation using “us” and “you”? What effect would that have on those listening?

7. This series is focused on God’s grace, where do we see God’s grace in each of these passages?

8. What separates Caleb from those facing judgment in v36? How does that shape what trusting God’s promises looks like?

APPLY

9. Before Israel was called to act, what had God already done for them in these passages? How does this connect with what we see in Romans 5:6–8 and shape our response?

10. Israel had God's promise but still responded with fear. Where do you see that same tension in your own life?

PRAY

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

MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

Soul Eats Kitchen

Praise God for the growing community who gather together for dinner each Mon night at Kellyville Anglican. Praise God that those facing financial challenges can be well fed within community without drawing attention to their need. Pray for both care and gospel opportunities.

James & Charly Boardman – Holy Trinity, Kelso with BCA.

Praise God for the 16 non-Christians who came along to their Taste and See Banquet in March and that two of them have attended church since. Pray for love and wisdom for James and Charly as they follow up the rest.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 11th – Men's Night

May 17th – Newcomers Lunch

May 17th – The Commons

COMING UP

We have **baptisms on Sunday 31st May**, please prayerfully consider if this is for you. If you would like to be baptised please reach out to any staff at our Sunday services, or let us know at stpauls.church/connect.

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #2

GRACE THAT LEADS TO LOVE

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25

WELCOME

What stood out or raised questions for you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

EXPLORE

Brief Context:

As Israel prepares to enter the Promised Land, they are moving from the uncertainty of the wilderness into a time of settlement and stability, bringing new challenges for their trust and faithfulness.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1. What laws is Moses referring to in v1 and where are they to be lived out?

Note: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is known as the "Shema." The word Shema comes from the first word of v4 in Hebrew and means "hear." It is both a call to listen and respond, and a central confession of Israel's faith.

2. What connection do you see between who God is in v4 and what He calls His people to do in v5?

3. What are the everyday rhythms that flow from this confession of faith?

Read Deuteronomy 6:10–25

4. What is Israel looking forward to, and why does that lead to the warning in v12?

5. How is God described in v14, and does that challenge or fit with how you think about God?

REFLECT

6. In v20–25, what reason does Moses give for obedience, and what does he say obedience will lead to?

7. Israel is warned about forgetting God in times of comfort and blessing. Where are we most at risk of doing the same and why?

8. In v18, what does it mean to do what is “right and good”? Is there a difference between the two?

APPLY

9. God is described as jealous for His people. Do you believe He is jealous for you, and what competes for your loyalty to Him?

10. In this passage, God’s commands are relational, not just rules. What does it mean for His commands to be on our hearts, and what might it look like for them to shape our homes and daily lives? Read Titus 2:11-14 as you discuss.

PRAY

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

MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

SRE (Special Religious Education)

Give thanks for the 17 children who came to Easter Camp through SRE. Praise God that they were able to hear the gospel clearly proclaimed. Pray for an increasing thirst for knowing Jesus and becoming like him.

Margaret - with ENC in South West Sydney

Praise God for the many visitors to the Peace Tent during Ramadan. Pray for Margaret as she continues to meet up one to one with some of the women visitors. Pray that the Spirit of God would soften the hearts of these women to joyfully receive Bible stories about the Prince of Peace.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 20th - Good News Prayer Meeting

May 23rd - Big Play Out

May 24th - Pentecost Sunday

COMING UP

We have **baptisms on Sunday 31st May**, please prayerfully consider if this is for you. If you would like to be baptised please reach out to any staff at our Sunday services, or let us know at stpauls.church/connect.

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #3

GRACE FOR THE STUBBORN AND THE BROKEN

DEUTERONOMY 9:1-12; 10:12-16

WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

EXPLORE

Brief Context:

In Deuteronomy 6, Israel were warned not to forget the LORD in times of abundance. In chapters 7-8, Moses reminds Israel of how and why God has chosen them. They were not chosen because of their size, strength, or righteousness, but because of God's love and His faithfulness to His promises.

Moses also reflects on their wilderness journey, where God provided for them and taught them that life comes from His word, not from their own strength.

Read Deuteronomy 9:1-12

1. What was the spies' report about the Anakites (1:28), how did Israel respond, and what was the result?

2. What is being communicated in v3, and how does Israel's history change how we hear it?

3. For Israel, the land is a gift, but for the nations it is judgment. What do v4–6 show us about how to understand this?

4. What would Israel be tempted to believe about themselves if they successfully take the land? How does Moses confront that in v4–12?

REFLECT

Read Deuteronomy 10:12–16

5. What stands out about God's character in these chapters as He deals with both Israel and the nations?

6. Despite their unworthiness, Israel is still receiving the Promised Land. What kind of response and relationship with God is described in 10:12–13?

APPLY

7. What would “circumcise your hearts” have meant to Moses’ audience, and what does it mean for us today?

8. What challenge would Israel have felt from Moses’ words, and how do we share in that?

9. Likewise, what comfort would Israel have taken from these chapters, and how do we share in that?

PRAY

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

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

John & Fiona – SIM in South Asia

Please pray for Fiona and her local colleague, "J" as they have recently started a number of Women's Bible study groups in three different areas of their host country. Pray for the leaders who are growing in competency. Pray for the participants to have a deeper understanding of how the Old Testament fits with the message of the gospel.

Anglicare

Praise God that during our current cost of living crisis, Anglicare can provide immediate relief and long-term capacity building for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. Pray for generous donors to fund this love of Christ in action ministry.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 26th – Prime Time

May 27th – State of Origin @ Church

May 30th – Legacy Partners Breakfast

May 31st – Jesus Club Church

May 31st – Baptism Sunday

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #4

GRACE THAT SHAPES COMMUNITY

DEUTERONOMY 15:1-15

WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

EXPLORE

Brief Context:

Moses has been focusing on Israel's history and heart, exposing their failure to remain faithful despite God's grace. Israel has been confronted with God's grace and called to respond in love and obedience. Chapter 12 begins a shift to more detailed laws, showing how the heart God commands in chapter 10 is expressed in every area of life.

Read Deuteronomy 15:1-15

1. Divide into groups and assign one passage to each group. In your groups ask: what is being commanded of Israel, and what reason is given for these commands?

- verse 1-3
- verse 4-6
- verse 7-9
- verse 10-11
- verse 12-15

Share your responses as you come back together.

2. As you look across these commands, what would have to be true of Israel to truly live this out?

REFLECT

3. If Israel has been redeemed by God, what does it reveal about them if they refuse to be open-handed?

4. In v9, even the thought of withholding is called sin. What does this reveal about the difference between keeping the letter of the law and the heart of God's command? Where might we keep the letter of God's commands while avoiding their intent?

5. V11 says "there will always be poor," yet v4 says "there should be no poor." How is Israel meant to hold these together?

6. Given this, do you think Israel is able to live this way?

APPLY

7. If this is the kind of heart God requires, where do these commands confront the way we think about money, security, and responsibility?

8. The heart of this chapter is, grace received, generosity commanded. Where have you received God's grace and blessing, and where does that call you to costly generosity?

9. Israel lived this out within a defined national community. In the New Testament, God's people are no longer a nation in the same way. How should this kind of generosity take shape among us now? (Optional: Acts 4:33–35)

10. We are not simply meant to be recipients of God's grace; rather, we are to be transformed by it and become expressions of it. What stops us from living this way?

PRAY

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

MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

Sports Chaplaincy

Praise God for our five sports chaplains who are present each week at various sporting clubs and venues. Pray that their care conversations with both players, family members and spectators would become gospel conversations. Pray that they'd know God's wisdom for any of the critical incidents they must deal with; on or off the field, and in supporting club members in their personal lives.

IJM (International Justice Mission)

Praise God for supporters choosing to run in the City2Surf in August for IJM. Pray that they'd be successful in raising greater awareness for IJM and in fundraising, to fuel IJM's efforts in protecting people in poverty from violence.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

June 3rd - YA Pure Praise Night

GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #5

GRACE THAT LOOKS FORWARD

DEUTERONOMY 30:11-20; 31:1-8

WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

EXPLORE

Brief Context:

Deuteronomy 30–31 sits at the climax of Moses' speeches. Chapters 1–11 focus on Israel's history and heart, 12–26 apply the law to life, and 27–28 set out the consequences of obedience and disobedience: life and blessing, or curse and exile. In chapter 29, Israel's future failure is anticipated, before chapter 30 speaks of the restoration that will follow. These chapters bring everything together in a final call to choose life.

Read Deuteronomy 30:11–20; 31:1–8

1. What is Israel being called to do, and what reason is given for this command being "not too difficult" for them?

2. What choice is set before Israel in v15–20, and what are the results of each?

3. As Moses steps aside and Joshua leads, what is Israel ultimately being told to rely on?

4. If this command is “not too difficult,” why has Israel consistently failed to live this way?

REFLECT

5. As we come to the end of Deuteronomy, what have we seen about God and Israel’s response to Him, and how do we see that repeated here?

6. If Israel has been told to choose life, but their failure has already been exposed, how are we meant to hold those together?

7. Earlier in chapter 30 (v6), God promises to change their hearts. How does that shape how we understand this call to choose?

APPLY

8. God's word is described here as near and understandable. What difference should that make to how we respond to God?

9. Romans 10:5–13 picks up this passage. What does it add to our understanding of what it means to "choose life"?

10. What does our failure to consistently choose God reveal about what we need?

As we close this series, take a few minutes to reflect on the past weeks and write down:

- Something you have learned about God's character
- Something that has encouraged you
- Something that has challenged you
- One specific action you will take in response

PRAY

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

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

Chris & Erin - CMS in South East Asia

When Chris and Erin return to SE Asia after their baby is born later this year, they will be moving to a new location where they expect to encounter much spiritual opposition. Pray that the Spirit of God would soften the hearts and minds of the people there, and that Chris and Erin would have confidence that "the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds." (2 Cor 10:4)

Compassion

Pray that the Lord would have his hand on bringing together the right people to form the team going on the church Insight Trip to see the work of Compassion in Masbate, Philippines in Jan, 2027.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

June 13th - 45 In The Dark

June 14th - Step into Serving Fair

LOOKING AHEAD

June Events

June 17th - Women's Night

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