



TRANSFORMED *HEARTS*

GENEROSITY • REPENTANCE • FORGIVENESS

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

small
groups
LIFE TOGETHER

TERM 2 SCHEDULE

Week #1

- June 14th Step Into Serving Fair
- June 16th Christianity Explained Course week 2/8
- June 17th Women's Night
- June 20th Help at Home

Week #2

- June 21st The Commons
- June 23rd Christianity Explained Course week 3/8
- June 26th Hills Chillz

Week #3

- School Holidays

WHATS AHEAD

- July 5th Kids Partner in Church
- July 19th The Commons

HIGHLIGHT EVENTS:

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 25th

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

Whole Church Teaching Night – July 28th

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



TRANSFORMED HEARTS – MINI-SERIES GENEROSITY, REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

SERIES INTRODUCTION

As a church, throughout 2026 we are praying that God's grace will transform our whole lives. The Spirit transforms our hearts by grace, forming in us three life-changing qualities: generosity, repentance and forgiveness. Together, they are foundational to the Christian life and the heartbeat of our community.

When the Spirit transforms our hearts by grace, we stop living for ourselves and are empowered to live for others with joyful generosity, pursuing restored relationships with God and one another through repentance, and offering others the forgiveness so freely given to us.

Generosity, repentance and forgiveness shape how we live, how we relate, and how we respond to God and one another, building unity, healing hurt and giving credibility to our testimony of the gospel of grace and mercy the world truly needs.

In these studies, we explore what the Bible teaches and what a practical response looks like as grace leads us to generosity, grace calls us home in repentance, and grace gives us freedom to forgive and restore.

Our hope is that we would see a familiar pattern: we receive grace from God, grace transforms our hearts, and transformed hearts lead to transformed lives.

Our prayer is that we will be both informed and transformed: empowered by grace to generously serve, readily repent and freely forgive, so that as a church we might embody the transforming grace of Christ in every household, every community and every generation.

GOD OF GOODNESS - STUDY #1

GENEROSITY

LUKE 6:27-38 + 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

WELCOME

What do you think is the difference between someone who does generous things and someone who is genuinely a generous person?

REFLECT

Read Luke 6:27-38

1. Verses 27-28 address our attitude toward “your enemies”, “those who hate you” and “those who mistreat you”. We may not describe anyone this way, but who are the kinds of people we should have in mind as we listen to Jesus’ teaching?

2. What assumptions, desires, or instincts do we need to let go of to follow what Jesus teaches in verses 27-30? What makes that difficult?

3. As verses 32-34 point out, most people show some form of generosity. When you reflect honestly on your own generosity, what influences who you are most and least generous toward?

4. We naturally deem some people worthy of our generosity and others unworthy. How does God's character and His actions challenge the way we decide who deserves our generosity?

READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

5. Throughout this series, we want to highlight a recurring pattern: we receive grace from God, grace transforms our hearts, and transformed hearts lead to transformed lives. How do we see each part of this pattern unfold in this passage?

6. Why do you think Paul connects generosity with joy rather than simply duty?

RESPOND

7. We often think about generosity in terms of what we give to people. What would it look like for generosity to shape our whole posture toward others, including the way we view and interact with the people around us?

8. These passages paint a challenging and beautiful picture of a generous heart. Looking at this list, what attitudes, desires, or instincts in your own heart resist the generosity Jesus is calling you to?

9. As you reflect on generosity, where do you sense God's Spirit at work in you? Is He reshaping something in your heart by His grace, or calling you to act on what He has already been forming in you?

PRAYER

Spend some time sharing and praying for one another. As you pray, remember to include:

- The Serving Spot below
- Your group's link missionary
- What's ahead in the life of St Paul's

SERVING SPOT

Create a culture and posture of serving within your small group.

Small groups are a great place to help develop a culture of servant-heartedness. This can happen in a number of ways, both organically and intentionally.

The foundation of Christian service is receiving and responding to God's abundant generosity towards us. Everything we have comes from God, and we are invited to share our gifts, time, encouragement, and resources generously with others for His glory and our joy. Our service does not earn God's love or approval. Through Jesus, we are already deeply loved and secure as God's children. From that place of rest, service becomes a joyful response to God's goodness - a grateful expression of His love that blesses others and brings joy to us as well.

What could you do as a small group to practically serve and care for one another?

WHATS COMING UP

KEY DATE - Sunday 14th June

Our annual Step into Serving Fair takes place after all services. This is a great opportunity for all our church members to learn more about serving needs and volunteer roles in our community.

16th Christianity Explained Course week 2/8

17th Women's Night

20th Help at Home

TRANSFORMED HEARTS - STUDY #2

REPENTANCE

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-13A

WELCOME

When you hear the word repentance, what comes to mind?
How would you define it?

Read the following three quotes. Which one do you find most helpful or challenging, and why?

“Repentance is a definite turn from every thought, word, deed and habit which is known to be wrong.”

- John Stott, *Basic Christianity*

“Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God.”

- J. I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit*

“We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Brief Context: Piecing together Paul’s relationship with the Corinthian church requires some reconstruction, and the exact timeline is debated. Our best understanding is that Paul planted the Corinthian church, wrote them an earlier letter we no longer have (mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:9), and then wrote what we know as 1 Corinthians. After a painful visit with the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 2:1), Paul wrote another difficult letter “with many tears” (2 Corinthians 2:4), addressing the situation and calling them toward repentance. It is most likely this “tearful letter” Paul is referring to in 2 Corinthians 7.

READ 2 Corinthians 7:2-13a

REFLECT

1. What different emotions do you see in verses 2–7? What does this tell us about the situation between Paul and the Corinthians?

2. After writing the “tearful letter” rebuking the Corinthians, Paul sends Titus to Corinth and travels to Macedonia, where he anxiously waits for Titus’ report. What does Titus report back, and why does it bring Paul such comfort?

3. In verses 8–10, Paul says his letter caused sorrow, yet he rejoiced in the outcome. How does Paul distinguish between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow? What does each produce?

4. Paul is both remarkably frank with the Corinthians and deeply affectionate toward them. Why do we often struggle to hold these together, and how does Paul show us they belong together?

Optional extra: Read Proverbs 27:6. What insight does this proverb add?

5. We often think about repentance primarily as something between us and God. How does this passage show repentance moving toward others, and how does the attitude of the Corinthians in verse 11 challenge the way you respond when confronted with sin?

6. Assign each of the following passages to members of your group to read aloud. As you listen, consider what each passage reveals about how God views our relationships with one another.

- Matthew 5:23-24
- Luke 17:3-4
- 1 John 4:19-21
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Optional:

- Matthew 6:14-15
- Matthew 18:21-22 (full reading 18:21-35)
- Colossians 3:12-14

7. What do these passages reveal about why God cares so deeply about how we respond when relationships are damaged?

RESPOND

Throughout this study we have seen that repentance is more than feeling sorry or admitting we were wrong. God's grace transforms us into people who can rest in His forgiveness, receive correction, return to Him, and pursue restored relationships with others. Reflect on the following areas:

Resting in grace

8. When we are confronted with our sin, we often want to hide, minimise, or defend ourselves. How does knowing God's response to us in Jesus give you the confidence to come to Him in repentance?

Receiving correction

9. How do you normally respond when someone challenges, corrects, or confronts you? What might your response reveal about your heart?

Repentance before God

10. Are there areas of your life where God is calling you to move beyond sorrow or regret and come to Him in genuine repentance?

Repentance with others

11. Are there relationships where repentance may require you to move toward someone else with humility, honesty, or a desire for restoration?

PRAYER

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SERVING SPOT

Encourage members to assess their gifts, passions, and availability for serving individually.

Every member of our church has gifts, experiences, opportunities and resources that God can use to serve others. Small groups can play an important role in helping people recognise and use those gifts.

God has given each of us something to offer, not just for ourselves but for the good of others. Spend some time encouraging one another: What gifts, strengths, or life experiences do you see in others that God could use to serve those around them?

WHATS COMING UP

21st The Commons

23rd Christianity Explained Course week 3/8

26th Hills Chillz

TRANSFORMED HEARTS - STUDY #3

FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

WELCOME

As we begin a study on forgiveness, a light-hearted question to start: what is something small that people do that you find surprisingly hard to let go of?

Last week we explored repentance; this week we turn to forgiveness. While they are different, both flow from the same foundation: the grace we have received from God. As his grace transforms our hearts, it changes how we respond to our own sin and how we respond to the sins of others.

REFLECT

Read Matthew 18:15–20

1. In verse 15, Jesus begins with going directly to the person who has sinned against you. Why do you think this step is so often avoided? How do we distinguish wisdom from simply avoiding a difficult conversation?

2. In verse 16, Jesus says to involve one or two others as witnesses, quoting Deuteronomy 19:15. What is the role of a witness, and how does this change our approach from simply gathering people to support our side?

3. In verses 17–18, Jesus shows that unrepentant sin is taken seriously, while the goal remains restoration. What does it mean to treat someone “as you would a pagan or a tax collector,” and how does Jesus’ own example shape our understanding of this?

4. Verses 19–20 are often read on their own. How does the context of Jesus’ teaching on sin, forgiveness, and restoration shape the way we understand these verses?

5. Jesus has shown the importance of pursuing restoration when relationships are damaged. Peter now asks the question many of us naturally wonder: how far does this forgiveness go?

Read Matthew 18:21–35

6. Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him. What assumption seems to sit behind Peter's question, and how does Jesus challenge that assumption?

7. In the parable, what does Jesus want us to see through each of these details?

- The king who wanted to settle accounts
- The servant and his debt of ten thousand bags of gold (an impossibly large debt, with a single bag of gold representing around 20 years' wages)
- The servant begging for patience and the cancellation of his debt
- The other servant and his much smaller debt of a hundred silver coins (around 100 days' wages)
- The servant's refusal to forgive that debt and the master's response

8. What does the servant ask for in verse 26, and what does the master give him in verse 27? What does this reveal about God's forgiveness toward us?

9. At the end of the parable, Jesus says we must forgive our brother or sister and specifically adds "from your heart." Why does this matter for how we understand forgiveness?

RESPOND

Throughout this study we have seen that forgiveness is not ignoring sin or pretending hurt does not matter. Instead, Jesus points us to the extraordinary forgiveness we have received from God. His grace transforms our hearts so that forgiven people become forgiving people.

10. Jesus uses an enormous contrast between the debt we have been forgiven and the debts others owe us. Do you see your own need for forgiveness as deeply as Jesus presents it, and the sins of others as something grace can overcome?

11. Forgiveness can feel risky because it may require us to move toward people who have hurt us. How do we pursue forgiveness while also acting with wisdom about trust, boundaries, and reconciliation?

12. At the conclusion of the parable, Jesus gives a serious warning about receiving extraordinary mercy while refusing to extend mercy to others. Are there areas where God's grace needs to transform your heart toward someone, releasing unforgiveness, bitterness, or a desire for them to "pay back" what they owe?

PRAYER

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SERVING SPOT

Consider whether once a year, your small group could serve together to bless a church or community event

This may involve assisting with event set up or pack down, moving chairs and tables, manning a barbecue, cleaning or gardening to provide Help at Home, car parking at an Easter or Christmas service, laying out morning tea, welcoming people at a Newcomer's Lunch, etc.

You might choose an event in your demographic (e.g. a young adult small group helps welcome people at Pure Praise), or you might choose to bless another demographic in our church community (e.g. assist with set-up for Prime Time). Serving as a small group doesn't only bless our church community with an influx of volunteers at a larger-scale event, but it's also (hopefully!) a fun, community-building activity for your group and a great way to deepen friendships and bond together outside of the typical small group setting.

If you're interested in finding a way to serve together once a year, please reach out to Emma Wynn-Jones **emma.wynn-jones@stpauls.church** to discuss what opportunities are coming up that your group may be well suited for.

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