



# BIBLE STUDY BOOKLET

STUDIES 3-6

*Leaders Copy*



## During the week @ Grace Christian Church

When		What	Who		Where
Day	Time	Ministry	Leader/Contact	Phone No	Location
MON	6:30pm	Kawana/Wurtulla Bible Study - fortnightly	Tim Richards	5438 2201	Phil Rapply 55 Mandara Drive, Wurtulla
	7:00pm	Buderim Home Group	Colin Weston	5476 9648	9 Bairnsdale St East, Buderim
	7:00pm	Hinterland Home Group (Palmwoods)	Mark & Glorianne Porter	5445 0940	23 Rimmel Pl, Palmwoods
TUE	10:30am	New Mum's Bible Study	Jean Bowen-Jones	0402 746 533	church
	7:00pm	Chancellor Park Bible Study	Callum Lewis	0421 230 119	603/25 Chancellor Village Blvd, Chancellor Park
	7:00pm	Nambour-Burnside Grace Community Grp	Des Morris	5476 3892.	14 Sue Street, Burnside
WED	9:30am	Play Group (for children from birth to prep & their parents)	Nicola Timmers	5445 5552	church
	7:00pm	Bli Bli Home Group	John Baird	5448 4040	50 Gallery Drive, Bli Bli
	7:00pm	Caloundra Home Group	Roger Anderson	5491 9442	72/242 Parklands Blvd, Currimundi
THU	9:45am	Ladies Bible Study	Alison Sheldon	5477 1895	church
	10:30am	Chancellor Park Nursing Home service Held on the 2nd Thursday each month	Pr Clint Lombard	0478 578 152	Chancellor Park Nursing Home 94 University Way, Sippy Downs
	7:00pm	Diddillabah Home Group—Held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday each month	Cameron & Jane Blue	5442 3103	22 Brookfield Crt, Diddillabah
	7:30pm	Sippy Downs/Buderim Bible Study	Pr Clint Lombard	0478 578 152	church
FRI	4:00pm	Kids Friday Club (prep - year 6)	Callum Lewis	0421 230 119	church
	7:00pm	Grace Alive (year 7-12 & Young Adults)	Callum Lewis	0421 230 119	church

SERMON NOTES  
WEEK 3 - GERMINATING JOY

## STUDY 3 – GERMINATING JOY

- 1) Without getting too spiritual just yet, what makes you really happy?  
When do find that you are your happiest?**

The purpose of this question is to both "break the ice" and to set things up for discussing the distinction between passing happiness and true Christian joy. Try to keep people focused on what EARTHLY things make them happy, rather than on HEAVENLY things. Ie - holidays, ice-cream, hanging out with friends etc...

- 2) What brings this happiness to an end?**

The answer to this question will depend on answers to the first, but try to emphasise that the happiness that EARTHLY things bring us ebbs and flows, and ultimately is only ever temporary.

**Please read Psalm 20:5, Habakkuk 3:18 and Luke 15:7.**

- 3) In the above verses we see that salvation (whether physical or spiritual) leads to joy. If you're a Christian, try to describe the joy that you felt when you were first saved.**

Encourage people to not just give "text book" answers to this question, but to open up about what they felt. Different people will probably emphasise different things: The joy of having a relationship with God, the joy of forgiveness, the joy of eternal security, etc...

- 4) How was this "joy" different from the "happiness" that you described when answering question 1?**

Again, there will probably be a range of different answers to this, but try to emphasise that spiritual joy is lasting, and spiritual joy transcends the ups and downs of life.

## **5) How would you define Christian joy?**

It is the calm delight of knowing that God is sovereign, that He loves me, and that He will work everything together for my good, which enables me to praise Him in any situation.

## **6) Please read these passages one at a time, answering the questions below: Acts 13:50-14:1, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Acts 16:16-25**

### **a) Humanly speaking, why did these people have no reason to be joyful?**

- They had just been beaten up
- They were desperately poor
- They were locked in prison

### **b) What did their Christian joy cause them to do despite their circumstances?**

- Get back up and keep on preaching
- Give generously to others in need
- Sing loudly

### **c) What can we learn from their example?**

- That Christian joy can give us evangelistic zeal and courage
- That Christian joy can stir up our desire to serve others
- That no matter how bad things get Christians still have a reason to sing.

**7) Do you think that a Christian's joy should grow or lessen as time progresses? Why? See Galatians 5:22-23 and 2 Peter 3:18.**

As a Christian grows in grace their "joy" should grow in parallel. After all, fruit grows! A Christian therefore, should be gradually growing in love, joy, peace... and all the other fruits.

As a Christian comes to better understand God's word, and more deeply appreciate how wonderful God is, and see more prayer answered etc... it makes sense that their Christian joy will increase.

**8) What things cause you to temporarily lose your Christian joy?**

Encourage people to open up by sharing your experiences. Is it unconfessed sin? Is it focusing on difficult circumstances? Is it a person who gets under your skin? Is it something else?

**9) What steps can we take to cultivate greater Christian joy in our lives?**

We can confess sin, so that we feel the joy of our salvation. Psalm 51:12

We can count our blessings, so that we better appreciate how faithful our God is.

We can immerse ourselves in the Word, so that we have a better perspective on life and eternity.

We can spend time with joyful Christians.

We can remind ourselves of all of God's promises.

Etc...

**10) PERSONAL QUESTION: What steps do you need to take in your life to cultivate a greater Christian joy?**

## PRAYER POINTS

SERMON NOTES  
WEEK 4 – PLANTING PEACE

## STUDY 4 – PLANTING PEACE

**1) Is there anything in your life at the moment that is causing you to be anxious?**

Encourage the group to open up by sharing something about yourself.

**Please Read Philippians 4:4-7**

**2) What does Paul tell us to do so that we can experience the peace of God? What do you think is significant about the words “anything” and “everything”?**

Paul tells us to bring our requests to God in prayer. It is also significant that Paul mentions thanksgiving. Having a healthy, well rounded prayer life therefore, is a great way to experience the peace of God. The words anything and everything show us that we should make a habit of taking all things, whether big or small, to God in prayer. The more we do this, the more we will be able to rest in God, and the more we will experience the peace that comes from Him.

**3) What do you think Paul means when he talks about the peace of God which “surpasses all understanding”?**

Paul is essentially saying that the peace that a Christian can know, in the midst of a trial, isn't going to make logical sense. People won't understand why we're at peace in the middle of cancer, or unemployment, or war, or some other event that turns our life upside down.

**4) What do you think Paul means when he talks about God's peace “guarding your hearts and minds”?**

The picture here is that of God's peace standing guard over us, to protect our thoughts and feelings from doubting or questioning or panicking.

Make sure the group understands that this peace starts with handing everything to God in prayer and flows out of there.

**5) Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God's peace in the middle of trying circumstances? Share with the group if appropriate.**

Again, try to encourage the group to open up by sharing your own experiences.

When Paul tells us that "peace" is a fruit of the Spirit, he isn't just talking about an inner peace that we can experience, he is also talking about the peace that we can have, and should pursue, with others.

**In light of this please read Romans 12:14-21.**

**6) Do you think the instruction here comes naturally to us, or do you think we need God's help to pursue such peace? Discuss.**

No it doesn't come naturally. None of the fruits of the Spirit come naturally, and "peace" isn't any different. We naturally want to defend our perceived rights. We naturally want to repay evil for evil. We naturally want to elevate ourselves above others etc. These are hard commands! When we become a Christian however, the Holy Spirit begins to change us, so that we desire to extend peace toward others.

**7) Scan through the commands in these verses. Which do you find the hardest? Why?**

We are all different, and therefore we all have different struggles. Some people will be more prone to retaliation, while others will be more prone self-exaltation... etc...

Make sure that the group understands that these are real issues that are going to come up in the real world, but God calls us to respond peaceably.

**8) Rewrite verse 18 in your own words.**

The big idea of doing this is to bring out that we shouldn't be passive in pursuing peace. We have to do whatever we can and go as far as we can.

**Please read Matthew 18:15**

**9) Whether you have done the wrong thing or not, whose responsibility is it to take the initiative to restore peace?**

No matter who is at fault, God tells us that the ball is in our court to restore peace. If we have sinned against someone then we have a duty to ask for forgiveness. If someone has sinned against us then we have a duty to gently approach them about it. WE are always responsible to pursue peace! Also see Hebrews 12:14.

**10) How does pursuing peace with others demonstrate something of the gospel? See Romans 5:8-10**

The heart of the gospel message is that God pursued peace with us through the death of His Son even when we were enemies. We didn't meet Him half way. He went ALL THE WAY for us.

When we pursue peace with others we are following in our Heavenly Father's footsteps.

Encourage the group to see that they can shine brightly for the Lord through living peaceably with others.

# PRAYER POINTS

SERMON NOTES  
WEEK 5 – PROPAGATING PATIENCE

## STUDY 5 – PROPAGATING PATIENCE

### **1) Do you think that you lean more towards patience or impatience?**

Encourage the group to open up by sharing about yourself.

### **2) No one is perfectly patient. What are some situations in which you get frustrated and lose your patience?**

Examples might include: being too unwell to do something you had planned to do; being stuck in traffic; the computer playing up; a crying baby; trying to explain yourself to someone who just doesn't get it; etc.

### **3) Do you think our society and way of life encourage us to be patient? Why or why not?**

I think our world encourages impatience. We live in a very fast paced society, where we are constantly encouraged to go, go, go, and where we are constantly governed by the clock. We expect our internet pages to open instantly. We expect our fast food to come, well... fast. And if we want something that we can't afford, we put it on our credit card, so that we can have it now.

The end result is that cultivating the fruit of patience is in fact a very counter-cultural thing to do.

### **4) How would you define patience? How does faith in God come into the equation?**

The Oxford Dictionary defines patience as "the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious."

Even though this is a good definition, Christians would probably want to add something to the end of it such as "knowing that God is in control and His timing is perfect."

Faith in God is a vital component of true patience, because true patience is anchored in trusting in God's sovereignty over both circumstances and timeframes.

**Please read Psalm 37:7, Psalm 40:1-2, Romans 12:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Hebrews 6:15 and James 5:7 and answer the following for each verse:**

**5) How is patience displayed or commanded in this verse?**

Psalm 37:7 - Waiting patiently for *God* to deal with evil doers

Psalm 40:1-2 - Waiting patiently for *God* to answer prayer

Rom 12:12 - Waiting patiently for suffering to come to an end

1 Thes 5:14 - Displaying patience in ministry

Heb 6:15 - Waiting patiently for *God's* promises to be fulfilled

Jam 5:7 - Waiting patiently for the Lord's return

**6) In what scenarios might we need to display such patience?**

Ps 37:7 - It takes patience to wait for *God* to deal with those who attack us or persecute other Christians, rather than taking matters into our own hands.

Ps 40:1-2 - Sometimes we need to pray patiently and consistently about the same thing for many years before *God* chooses to answer.

Rom 12:12 - When we are sick or suffering we need patience to endure it knowing that *God's* timing is perfect.

1 Thes 5:14 - People can try our patience. As such we need patience as we carry out all of our Christian service. Some people are easy, some people are difficult. Some people grow quickly, some people grow slowly.

Heb 6:15 - We need patience while waiting for all of *God's* promises to be fulfilled. Perhaps patience in believing that all things **WILL** work together for good. Perhaps patience in believing that *God* **WILL** answer our prayers, one way or another in His good time. Perhaps patience in believing that we **WILL** gradually grow in holiness as our Christian journey continues.

Jam 5:7 - Some days we just wish that *God* would return asap. We need patience as we wait for that day, knowing that history is always running on time.

Please read **Matthew 18:21-35**

**7) How did the master show patience and forgiveness to the first servant in this parable? What are some ways in which our master, God, show patience to us?**

The master showed patience to the first servant by showing mercy when he failed to give him the money that was owed to Him.

The most important way that God shows patience to His children is by not punishing us for failing to pay him what we owe him (a life of perfect obedience). This said, God continues to show us patience every time he forgives us for sin; He continues to show patience when our Christian growth is painfully slow; He continues to show us patience by answering prayer even when we often forget to give Him thanks for it; Etc...

**8) How did the first servant fail to learn from His master's patience and forgiveness? Why do you think he acted this way?**

The first servant was all too willing to be a recipient of his master's patience, but he had no interest in showing a similar patience to others.

We're not explicitly told why the servant acted this way, but perhaps it was because:

- He wasn't truly grateful for the master's mercy to him.
- He didn't appreciate how massive a debt he owed.
- He was quicker to see the speck in his servant's eye, than he was to see the plank in his own.

Make sure that the group understands that we are often prone to do the same thing.

**9) What is the significance of the different amounts of money mentioned in the parable? What is the lesson for us?**

It is significant that the first servant owed his master a far, far, far greater sum than that which was owed to him. This highlights the fact that the patience and forgiveness that God shows to us, is far, far, far greater than the patience and forgiveness that we are called to show others.

We who have been recipients of God's amazing patience, should freely show patience to others, remembering that God has forgiven us far more, than we will be forgiving them.

When we show patience to others, we are gently pointing them to the God who has been so patient with us.

**10) Is patience always a passive thing where we just wait, or can patience be an active thing? Discuss**

Patience should also be an active thing. For example, it requires patience to learn a musical instrument, but it is a very active patience. In this regard, patience is very closely related to endurance and perseverance.

# PRAYER POINTS

SERMON NOTES  
WEEK 6 - CULTIVATING KINDNESS

## STUDY 6 – CULTIVATING KINDNESS

**1) What are some of the motivations that people have for showing kindness to others? List both positive and negative motivations.**

Motivated by a...

- Genuine care for the other person
- Desire to please God
- Desire to be a good witness to another person
- Desire to have the kindness reciprocated
- Desire to look good

**2) Give an example of kindness that has been shown to you? How did it make you feel?**

Hopefully amongst the group there will be a good spectrum of small things through to large things. From someone letting you jump a que, to someone donating a kidney.

Try to get people thinking more deeply than "it made me feel good".  
Loved, valued, special, grateful, supported etc...

Encourage the group to see that they can make others feel the same way through their acts of kindness.

One of the great examples of kindness found in the Bible is that of King David taking care of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathon, who was the son of King Saul. Even though King Saul hated David, David loved Jonathon, and therefore promised Jonathon that he would show kindness to all of his descendants. This was an amazing promise, because normally, when a new king came to power he would banish or execute all of the previous King's descendants.

**Please read 2 Samuel 9 which tells of David keeping his promise.**

**3) What steps did David take to find any remaining descendants of Jonathon? What does this teach us about showing kindness?**

He asked around and eventually tracked down a servant of Saul. Then he met with this servant of Saul in order to make further enquiries. And then when he had the information he dispatched his men to go and get Mephibosheth. In other words, David really went out of his way to find any that he could show kindness to.

This teaches us that we don't just show kindness to those who arrive on our doorstep; we should actually go out of our way to find those in need of our kindness.

**4) What reasons do you think David might have had to avoid showing kindness to Mephibosheth?**

- He didn't really know Mephibosheth.
- Mephibosheth would never be able to repay him.
- Mephibosheth was a descendent of his arch enemy Saul.
- Showing kindness to the previous royal family was unconventional - and the people could see it as a sign of weakness.
- It would cost David something to show kindness to him.

**5) What excuses might we use to avoid showing kindness to others?**

We could easily use many of the above excuses. We could also claim that we are too busy, or that someone else should do it, or that we haven't got enough resources to give any away.

**6) What was the extent of David's kindness to Mephibosheth? What can we learn from this about showing kindness to others?**

David welcomed Mephibosheth into his house, treated him like a son, and gave him the estates that had previously belonged to King Saul. David really went the extra mile to show such kindness.

The lesson for us is that we should never have a bare minimum approach to the kindness that we show to others. We should be generous in our kindness.

**7) Given that David obviously wasn't close to Mephibosheth prior to this account, what do you think motivated his wonderful kindness to Mephibosheth? What can we learn from this?**

David was motivated by his love for Mephibosheth's father, Jonathon. See 1 Samuel 20:14-17.

Our highest motivation for showing kindness to others should be our relationship with God. We should want to show kindness to all of his "children" because we love Him. See Matthew 25:40.

**8) Discuss the different parts of Galatians 6:10?**

"As we have opportunity" - we can't show practical kindness to EVERYONE because we are human, but we should be ready to take the opportunities that are presented to us.

"Let us do good to everyone" - We shouldn't be discriminatory to those that we show kindness to.

"Especially to those who are of the household of faith" - Showing kindness to our Christian brothers and sisters needs to be a priority. They are our spiritual family members and should be treated in a special way.

**9) Please read Acts 20:35. What do you think Jesus' words mean? Have you ever experienced the truth of this verse?**

Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. In other words, we will find more happiness in giving, than we will in receiving. This seems all backwards, but when we are showing kindness and generosity to others we are doing what we have been made to do, and so we find true joy!

**10) Who can you intentionally show kindness to in the coming week?**

# PRAYER POINTS