

PRAYERFULNESS:

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

WEEKS 4-8

**GROW
TOGETHER
IN JESUS
FOR GOD'S GLORY**

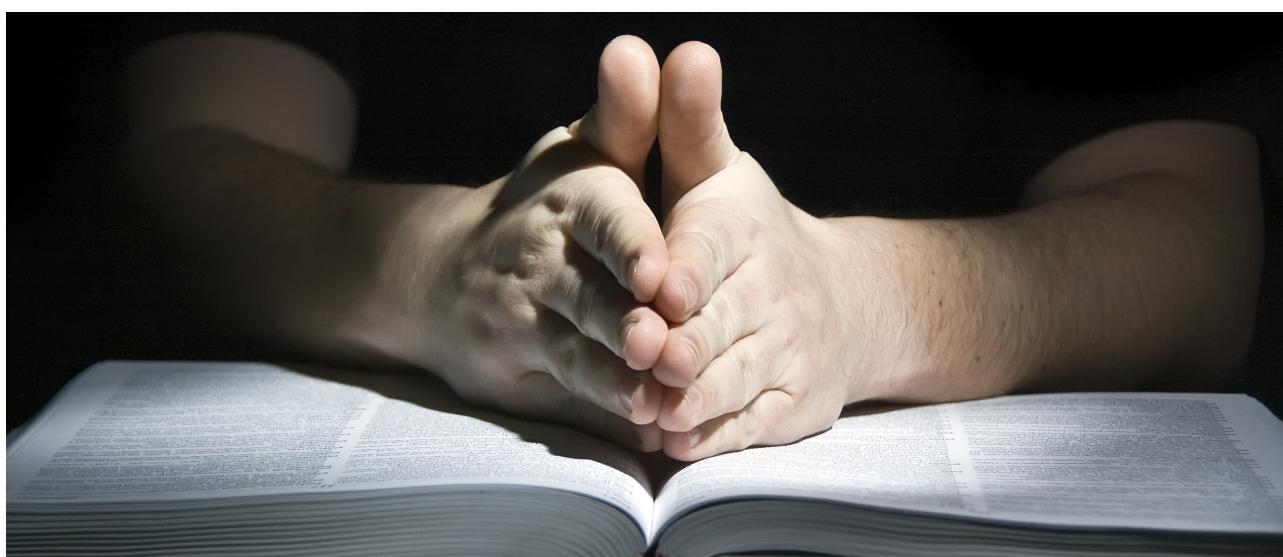


Home Groups @ Grace

Day	Time	Address	Contact
Monday	6.30pm (fortnightly)	8 Joshua Place Little Mountain 4551	Tim Richards T: 5438 2201 E: timmyrichards@bigpond.com
	7.00pm	23 Rimmel Place Palmwoods 4555	Mark Porter T: 5445 0940 E: porters@iinet.com.au
	7.00pm	9 Bairnsdale Street East Buderim 4556	Colin Weston T: 5476 9648 E: col.syb@gotalk.net.au
Tuesday	10.00am <i>New Mums</i>	20/11 Toral Drive Buderim 4556	Jean Bowen-Jones T: 0402 746 533 E: jbowenjones@gmail.com
	6.30pm <i>Young Adults/ Students</i>	Unit 603, 25 Chancellor Village Blvd Sippy Downs 4556	Callum Lewis T: 0432 315 974 E: clewis@gracechurchbuderim.com.au
Wednesday	7.30pm	Unit 72, Oasis Village 242 Parklands Blvd Currimundi 4551	Roger Anderson T: 5491 9442 E: anderog@bigpond.com.au
Thursday	9.45am <i>Ladies</i>	Grace Church, 2-4 Toral Drive, Buderim 4556	Janne Evans T: 5445 8933 E: office@gracechurchbuderim.com.au
	7.00pm	Grace Church, 2-4 Toral Drive, Buderim 4556	Clint Lombard T: 0478 578 152 E: pastorclint@gracechurchbuderim.com.au
	7.00pm (1st + 3rd Thurs each month)	22 Brookfield Court Diddillibah 4559	Cameron Blue T: 5442 3103 E: cameronandjaneblue@bigpond.com

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Introduction to the Study Guide

Prayerfulness: Communicating with God

This Bible study series is designed to work alongside the Sunday sermon series on the Lord's Prayer to help us think more deeply about how we should be communicating with God.

This said, these studies won't necessarily correspond directly with the sermons, which are going to deal with the *When, How, Who* and *What* of prayer. Instead, most of the study material will focus especially on the different parts of prayer: *Thanks, Praise, Request* and *Confession*.

It is our hope and prayer, that through these studies and the parallel sermon series, each one of us will develop a deeper and richer prayer life, for our joy and spiritual health and for the glory of God.

- Ps Rick Zylstra

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

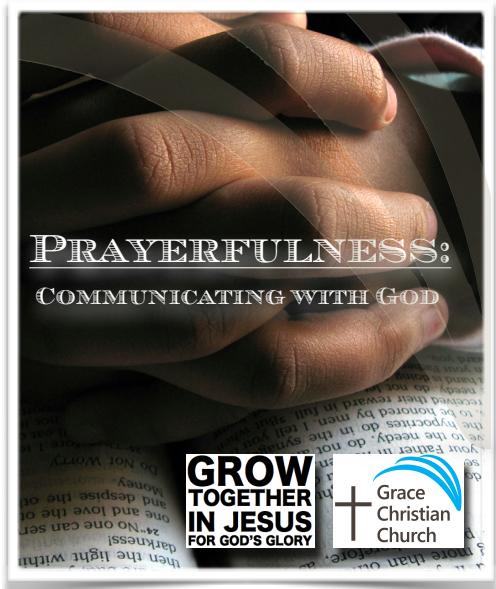
*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

(Matthew 6:9-13)

"Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy, and exalts God as wealthy."

- John Piper (US pastor and writer)



"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'"

- Jesus Christ
(Matthew 6v9)

How to use this study guide

Each weekly study in this guide is broken into two major sections:

Sunday Sermon

Sermon Notes

The first section of each study is based around the Sunday sermon. There is a section for you to write notes during the message. You might want to write down

- The major points of the message
- Things that interested you or surprised you
- Important verses and other verse references

This will help you follow what is being taught, but it will also help you remember what you learnt when you look over your notes later.

The Big Idea

This block is where you can write the one Big Idea of the message. Every message should have one simple, clear '**Big Idea**' which you can take away.

Questions

It's normal to go away from a Bible message still having questions, and not quite understanding things. This section is for you to write down those things, so that you can try to find out later, maybe by asking the pastor, or discussing it with your home group.

Mid-week Home Group Bible Study

To get the most out of these studies, you should try and attend a weekly home group Bible study. If you have the time, look over the studies before going to a group. You may like to write down your answers and other study notes in your own notebook.

As you go through each study, you will see pictures next to the questions. Sometimes, there will be more than one picture.



: When you see this picture, you need to do some thinking. The answers to these questions will come from your own knowledge and experience.



: When you see this picture, you need to put what you've learned into action. It's about asking, "What does this teach me about being a follower of Jesus?"



: When you see this picture, you will need to look in your Bible. Don't be afraid to use the index in your Bible to find the verses - that's what it's there for!



: When you see this picture, you need to discuss this with the other people in your group. It's great to learn from each other!

Prayer Points

Finally, there is a section to write prayer points. This way you can remember to pray for each other during and after the group meeting, and also keep track of prayers answered. Prayer and praying for each other is a vitally important part of Christians meeting together.

Week 4

Sermon: The ‘When’ of Prayer

Matthew 6v5-6

Sermon Notes

What is the Big Idea?

What questions do I still have?

Study: Thinking Through Prayer - Week 4

(Matthew 6:6)

Q1.  When do you find it easiest to pray? Why?

Q2.  When do you find it hardest to pray? Why

Q3.   Read Matthew 6:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How do we reconcile these two passages? Is prayer meant to happen any time, or at a specific time? Can you think of any Bible figures that support your answer?

Q4.  What do you think is potentially dangerous about only ever praying spontaneously?

Q5.  What do you think is potentially dangerous about only ever praying at a set time each day?

Q6.  What do you find most difficult about implementing Jesus' instruction in Matthew 6:6? Share suggestions with one another as to how to overcome these difficulties.

Q7.  What are some of the "conditions" that God mentions when it comes to answering our prayers? Consider the following verses:

- James 1:6-8
- Luke 11:5-10
- James 4:2-3
- Psalm 66:16
- Isaiah 59:1-2
- 1 John 5:14-15

Q8.  Which of the above “conditions” do you find the most difficult in your prayer life? Why?

Q9.  What are some practical ways we can become more passionate about our prayer lives?

Q10.  What could you do tomorrow to begin improving your prayer life?

Prayer Points:

Week 5

Sermon: The ‘How’ of Prayer

Matthew 6v7-8

Sermon Notes

What is the Big Idea?

What questions do I still have?

Study: Thankfulness in Prayer - Week 5

(Luke 17:11-19)

God's Command to be Thankful

- Q1.  Ask three people in your group to read the following verses:
Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5v16-18
- a) What phrases in these verses describe how thankful God expects us to be?

 - b) Does this sound impossible to you? Why or why not? What do you think that Paul is getting at?

Our Struggle to be Thankful

Read Luke 17:11-19.

- Q2.  Discuss the “disconnect” between how passionate these men were with their “prayer request” (v12-13) and how passionate they were about being thankful. Do you ever see this tendency in your prayer life?

Q3.  Brainstorm possible reasons for why the nine lepers didn't return to Jesus. Do any of these reasons resonate with you?

Q4.   Discuss how the following three things can rob us of thankful hearts. Can you think of a time when you have been affected by each?

a) Familiarity (*see Numbers 11:1-6*)

b) Greed (*see Ecclesiastes 5:10*)

c) Comparison (*see Numbers 11:4-5*)

Can you think of any other things that rob us of thankful hearts?

Cultivating Thankful Hearts

- Q5.   What can we learn from the one leper who returned about being thankful for answered prayer? Take note of his actions, his words and his posture (see Luke 17:16-17).
- Q6.   What can we learn from Romans 8:28-29 and James 1:2-3 about being thankful in all of life, no matter what the circumstance? How can remembering the truths of these verses help us cultivate more thankful hearts?
- Q7.  What are some practical steps that we could take to become more thankful in our prayer lives?

Prayer Points:

Week 6

Sermon: The ‘Who’ of Prayer

Matthew 6v9-10

Sermon Notes

What is the Big Idea?

What questions do I still have?

Study: Praising God in Prayer - Week 6

Luke 1:39-56

- Q1.  If someone were to ask you “what does it mean to *praise* God in prayer”, how would you answer them? Is it different to *thanking* God in prayer?
- Q2.  Which part of prayer do you think that you find the most difficult – Praising, Asking, Confessing or Thanking? Why?
- Q3.  Why do you think that so many people find it difficult to Praise God in prayer?

- Q4.  Read Luke 1:39-56, particularly focusing on Mary's prayer. Work through Mary's prayer and try and separate the points of **thanks** from the points of **praise**. Think back to the discussion in Q1. to help you.

In working though this question you may have noticed that often, when we have something to *thank* God for, we simultaneously have something to *praise* God for, namely, the attribute or characteristic that enables God to carry out the particular action.

If we are struggling to *praise* God in prayer, it can be really helpful to look at the things we are *thankful* for, and then consciously think about how God brought that thing to pass. This will give us a point for *praise*!

For example, Mary praised God for the “strength of His arm (v51)”, which was necessary for Him to “fill the hungry” (v53).

- Q5.  Consider the following points of *thanksgiving* and try to think about a corresponding point of *praise*:

- A friend miraculously survives an accident

- A family member becomes a Christian

- A church member grows in their faith through a trial
- Our house sells quickly when we put it on the market
- A Non-Christian friend reads their Bible and is deeply convicted of their sin

Q6.  Discuss some of the benefits of regularly praising God in prayer. After some discussion, consider the following verses to expand your list.

- Psalm 8:3-4
- Acts 16:25-26
- Psalm 46:1- 3
- Isaiah 29:16
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Romans 3:23
- Luke 19:37-40
- Psalm 4:8
- Psalm 89:13-16

- Q7.  Read Hebrews 13:15. In this verse we are told to “continually” praise God. However, if we’re honest with ourselves we have to admit that we all experience times when we simply don’t “feel” like praising God. *WHEN* might we feel this way? *WHAT* should we do about it when we do? Get practical!
- Q8.  List as many things as possible that we can *praise* (not *thank*) God for in prayer.
- Q9.  What practical steps can you take to incorporate more PRAISE into your prayer times?
- Q10.  Spend some time praising God in prayer as a group.

Prayer Points:

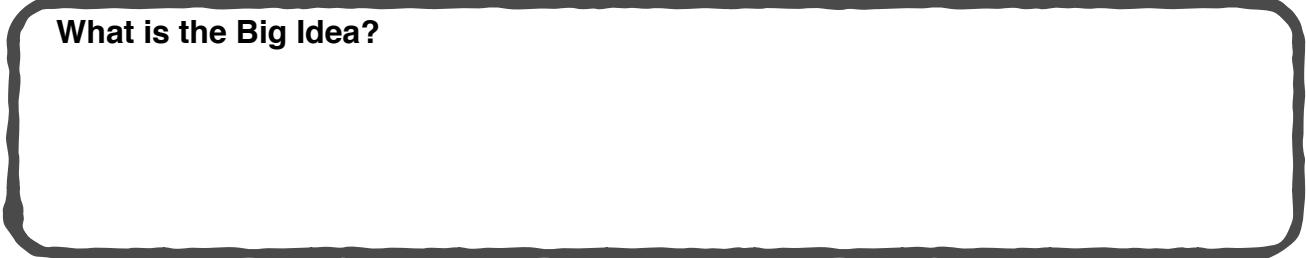
Week 7

Sermon: The ‘What’ of Prayer (#1)

Matthew 6v11

Sermon Notes

What is the Big Idea?



What questions do I still have?

Study: Asking God in Prayer - Week 7

Philippians 4:6-8, Luke 22:41-42, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, Philippians 1:9-11

Q1.   Discuss the following quote:

"Prayer gives us an opportunity to walk into the office of the CEO of the universe and talk about anything we want for as long as we want, any time we want."

- Steve Farrar (founder of *Men's Leadership Ministries*)

Do you think that you value prayer as highly as you should?

Q2.  Read Philippians 4:6-8.

- a) What sorts of things do you tend to worry about? Is there anything in your life right now that you are especially worried about?

- b) What do you normally do with your worry? Play it over and over in your mind? Shut it out? Try and find a solution? What does Paul tell us to do with our worry?

- c) How do verses 6 and 7 work? How can Paul promise this “peace that surpasses understanding”? Is experiencing such peace an “answer” to prayer, or is it a “by-product” of prayer?

- d) How do you think v8-9 connect with v6-7?

Q3.   Read Luke 22:41-42. Why is it important that we have the same attitude in prayer that Jesus had in v42? Why is it actually a good thing that God doesn't always give us what we ask for?

Q4.   Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

- a) Do you think that you spend more time praying about your needs, or about the needs of others? Why?

- b) What kinds of things does Paul urge us to pray about in these verses? How do each of these apply in 2014?

Q5. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 and Philippians 1v9-11.

- a) What is the emphasis in these prayer requests? Why should this emphasis feature in our prayers for *ourselves* and our prayers for *others*?

- b) Using the above verses and any others you can think of, compile a list of prayer requests that relate to spiritual health and progress.

Q6. Spend some time as a group praying for the physical and spiritual needs of one another and others.

Q7. Optional Extra: Read Luke 11:5-10 and discuss with the group.

Prayer Points:

Week 8

Sermon: The ‘What’ of Prayer (#2)

Matthew 6v12-15

Sermon Notes

What is the Big Idea?

What questions do I still have?

Study: Confession in Prayer - Week 8

Luke 18:9-14

Q1.  What do you find hardest about confessing your sin to God in prayer?

Q2.   Can you think of any Biblical examples of people confessing their sin to God in prayer?

Q3.  Read Luke 18:9-14

- a) How would you describe the Pharisees prayer (v11-12)? What should we seek to avoid?

- b) How would you describe the Tax Collector's prayer (v13)? What should we seek to imitate?

- c) What was the result of the Tax Collector's confession (v14)? What is the lesson for those who are not yet Christians?

Having considered that confession is a vital part of BECOMING a Christian, we might be tempted to think that confession is unnecessary in the life of a believer. After all, in Christ our sins have been removed as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12). The Bible however, teaches us that ongoing confession is a necessary part of the Christian life.

Q4.  Read 1 John 1:8-10.

- a) What does John say that a Christian needs to believe about sin in v8 and 10? What does he say about the person who denies this truth?
- b) What does John tell Christians to do with their sin? What happens when they do this?

Q5.  Read Psalm 32:1-5. How does David feel while there is unconfessed sin in his life? How do you feel, when there is unconfessed sin in your life? (Private reflection question: Are there things in your life right now that remain unconfessed?)

Q6.   Skim read through Psalm 51.

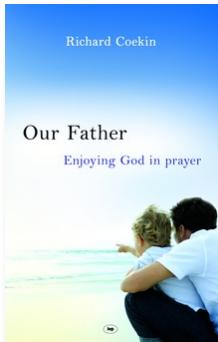
- a) In confessing his sin, what is David anticipating? See v1-2 ,v7-8, v10-15, for a whole range of things. Have you ever felt this way after confessing sin?

- b) What practical steps can you take to ensure that you regularly confess your sins to God?

Prayer Points:

Recommended Books

You may want to do some further reading to help you understand even better what the Bible says about prayer. Here are a few ideas. Some of these are also available from the Grace library in the foyer.



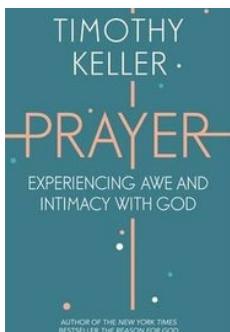
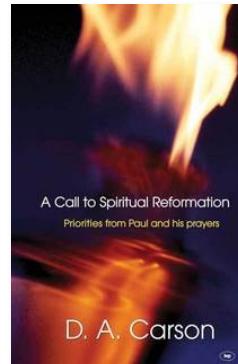
Our Father - Enjoying God in Prayer by Richard Coekin (© 2012 IVP)

'I was just thrilled with this book which gave me such a desire to pray a prayer which crystallises Christ's priorities for our lives.'

- Rico Tice (*Christianity Explored Ministries*)

A Call To Spiritual Reformation by D.A Carson (© 2011, IVP)

God doesn't demand hectic church programs and frenetic schedules: he only wants his people to know him more intimately, says D.A. Carson. The apostle Paul found that spiritual closeness in his own fellowship with the Father. *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* investigates the Epistles to see what lessons Paul taught in his 'school of prayer.'

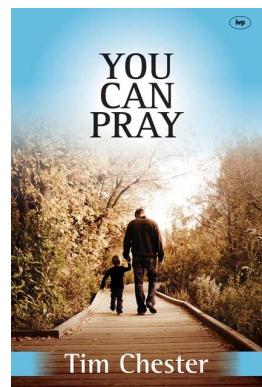


Prayer - Experiencing Awe and Intimacy With God by Timothy Keller (© 2014, Hodder & Stoughton)

A very practical book on how to dismantle those idols and bring about deep and permanent changes in our character and behaviour. This is a book that will teach you to pray - and in doing so, will change your life.

You Can Pray by Tim Chester, (© 2014, IVP)

If you're easily distracted when praying, you're not alone. In fact, if you struggle to pray in the first place, that's not unusual either. Tim Chester tells us how we can be great pray-ers. And he admits that that's a really bold claim.



All of these books are available online from koorong.com, or bookdepository.com or from Koorong stores.

Mobile Apps to help you pray



PrayerMate - Helping you to pray faithfully & widely

Prayer is an amazing privilege, but it's also really hard work (the apostle Paul compares it to a wrestling match!) PrayerMate is a Christian prayer app that seeks to help you actually pray for all the people and causes you care about.

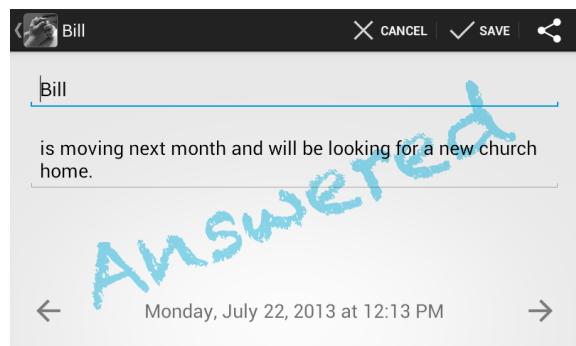
PrayerMate brings all your prayer points together. Whether its your personal prayer points for friends and family, regular updates from some fantastic mission organisations, or the latest PDF prayer letter that just arrived in your inbox, PrayerMate puts it all together in one place and helps you get on and pray.

Mobile Knee - Prayer List

Do you want to develop a better prayer life? Do you often "intend" to pray for someone or something but later forget? Do you wish you could have your prayer list with you at any time, to pray or add a request? This app was made for you!

Features:

- Maintain multiple prayer List
- Enter individual prayers
- Mark as answered
- View prayers (unanswered or all)
- Homescreen Widgets to cycle through each prayer during prayer time
- ...and many more!



Notes:



Men's Breakfast 2014

When: 7.15am for 7.30am start, 22 November 2014

Where: Forest Sanctuary, 77 Owen Creek Road

Cost: \$25 per person / \$20 for students & pensioners
(incl. full English breakfast and morning tea)

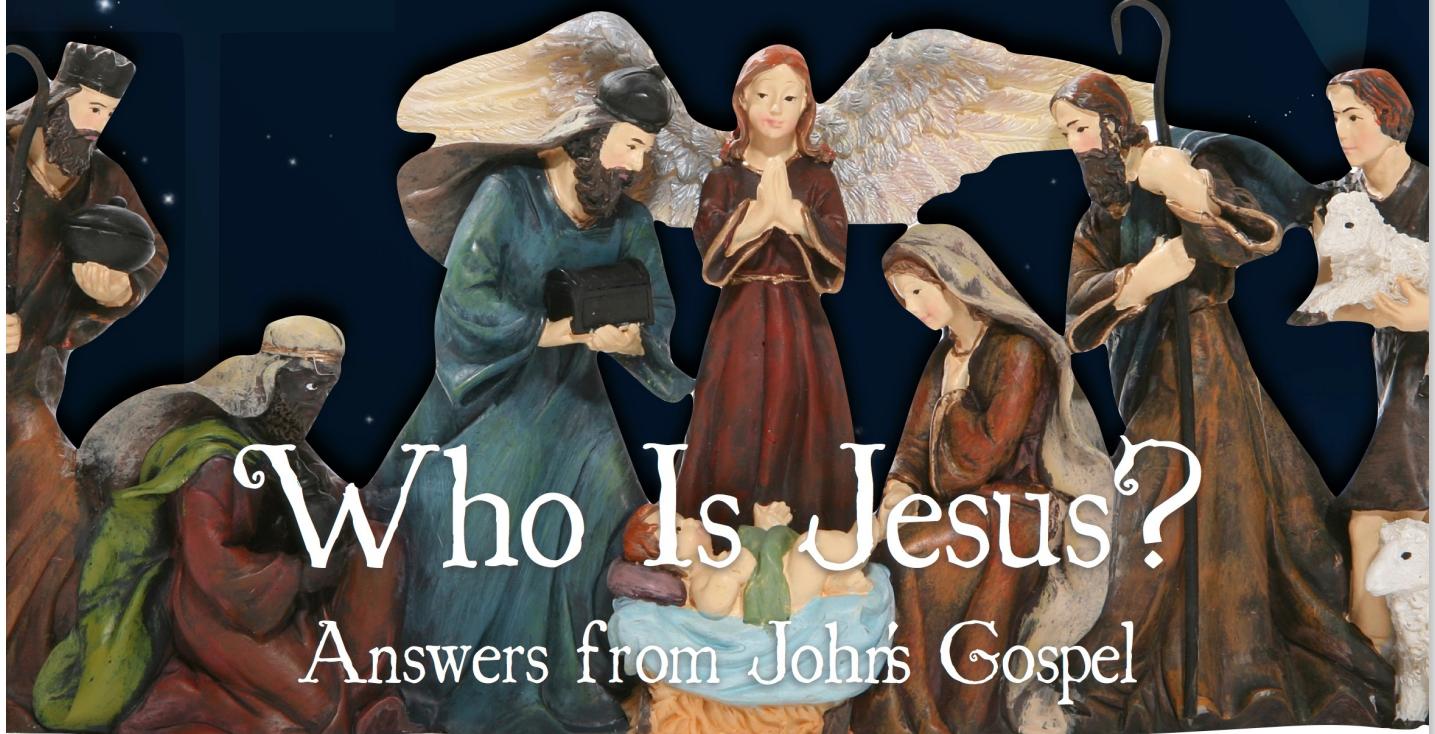
For more information and to register,
please contact (07) 5445 8933 or
menofgrace@gracechurchbuderim.com.au
(Registration closes Monday **17 Nov 2014**)

GROW
TOGETHER
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FOR GOD'S GLORY



Christmas @ Grace

7 - 28 December 2014



Who Is Jesus?

Answers from John's Gospel

Services every Sunday at 7.45am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

Carol Service (21 Dec) at 6.00pm

Christmas Eve (24 Dec) at 6.00pm

Christmas Day Service at 9.00am

For more information, go to www.gracechurchbuderim.com.au,
or contact office@gracechurchbuderim.com.au or 07 5445 8933

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Grace Christian Church