

Leader's Handbook

EVERY
MEMBER
COURSE



TERM 1
2022

CAMPBELLTOWN
ANGELIC CHURCHES

Contents

Introduction	4
Part 1 – Get to know the Campbelltown Anglican Churches.....	5
Session 1 – Who are we?	5
What is church according to the Bible?	5
Who are we?.....	7
Who do we want to be?.....	8
Wrapping up	8
Other helpful resources	9
Session 2 – Vision focus: Maturity in Christ.....	10
What is Christian maturity?	10
Maturity is mandatory!	11
How are you going in Christian maturity?	12
What part does our Church play in each other’s Christian maturity?	13
Growing in Maturity in our church	14
Wrapping up	16
Session 3 – Vision focus: Mission growth	17
What is God’s perspective?	17
What is God’s mission?	17
The necessity of mission	19
God’s role in mission.....	19
Our role in mission – Individually and as a community	20
Mission: Campbelltown, Sydney, Australia.....	21
Part 2 – Every member is.....	23
Session 4 - Every member is a minister	24
What is the role of the minister in the church?	24
Is every member a minister?	25
How can you minister?	28
Session 5 - Every member is a welcomer.....	29
Introduction	29
Welcoming like Jesus	30
Welcoming is an every-member responsibility	32
Learning to welcome.....	33
Other helpful resources	34
Session 6 - Every member is a partner in world mission	35
God’s mission to the nations	35
How do I get involved in world mission?	37

Practical partnership, according to the Bible.....	38
Other helpful resources	39
Session 7 - Every member is a pastoral carer	41
Introduction	41
Understanding ‘Pastoral Care’	41
Who is responsible for pastoral care?	43
Christian Care: the responsibility of every believer	43
We love because he first loved us	44
Pastoral Care in action	46
Other helpful resources	47
Session 8 - Every member partners financially.....	48
Tithing in the Old Testament law.....	48
Jesus gets to the heart of tithing in the New Testament.....	49
Biblical examples of generosity.....	52
Generosity for us.....	57
Session 9 - Every member is a discipler	59
Making and teaching disciples	59
Being a discipler	61
With another person.....	61
For an agreed amount of time.....	62
Reading and discussing the Bible	63
Plan to start as a discipler	64
Conclusion: Your invitation.....	65
Appendix of Resources.....	66
CAC Functional Structure Diagram	66
Our Growth pathway	67
Our Maturity Pathways.....	68
McCindle Research – Australian Spiritual Climate Report	69
Welcoming (The Gospel Coalition article) by Melissa Brown	71
Our ministries.....	72
Our link missionaries.....	73
Other partner organisations	73

A fresh start with church in 2022



Introduction

It's time for a fresh start as a church in 2022! After a couple of years of COVID-19 and the prospect of still more to come, it's time to think about who we are and what our purpose is so that we are ready to move forward when the pandemic eases off.



Watch Jason's 8-minute introduction video (*by scanning the QR code or visiting www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Introduction' link*) and then reflect together about what was said.

➔ **Activity:** Can you come up with 5 words that describe who we are as a church?

Ask the whole group to quickly write down 5 words.

Leader Notes

Then ask a few people to share their answers and why they picked those words.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

➔ How would you complete the following sentence:

Ask the whole group to complete the sentence and then ask a few people to share their answers and why they picked those words.

Leader Notes

Every member is _____

Part 1 – Get to know the Campbelltown Anglican Churches

Session 1 – Who are we?



If someone new to church asked you what our Vision Statement is, could you tell them?

NOTE: Session 1 starts first with the introduction to the whole series that is on the previous page of your booklet, after that, come here!

Leader Notes

Ask for volunteers to have a go at remembering our vision statement.

Answer: "A growing Christian community devoted to maturing in Jesus for the glory of God"

What is church according to the Bible?

Before we think about us as a particular church, it is important to remind ourselves what Jesus wants a church to be. The original word for 'church' in the Bible was not a special word like it is today – it was simply the word for 'gathering' or 'congregating'. Over time as language changed and Christianity spread throughout the world, 'church' came to be its own unique word.

Divide up the following passages amongst the group and discuss what each tells us about 'church'?

Allocate the following 7 passages to the members of your group. Give them a limited time (say 5 minutes) to feed back to your group. The key is to come up with a good summary of what 'church' is in the bible. You will find an example summary in the leader notes later in this booklet.

Leader Notes

Note there are many other passages about the church that we could include in this list so feel free to add your favourites if they are not in this list!

- Acts 9:31 – (After the rapid growth and early persecution of the Christian movement) *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*

-
- Acts 20:28-29 – (As Paul farewells the leaders of the Church in Ephesus) *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*
-
-

- Ephesians 1:22-23 - *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*
-
-

- Ephesians 3:10-11 – (God’s plan revealed to us) *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
-
-

- Ephesians 4:11-13 -*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*
-
-

- Hebrews 10:23-25 -*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
-
-

Write a summary of what, according to the Bible, is church?

For example:

Church is the body of Christ and he is its leader. Therefore, the church is both a local gathering of believers and the cosmic and universal body of all believers across time. Christ leads his church and is with his church.

It is important for believers to continue to meet together in local gatherings. In these gatherings all believers are to encourage each other to full maturity in Christ and to serve each other. Leaders are to shepherd and equip the saints for works of ministry.

Who are we?

Having thought about the biblical view of the Church, we now turn to think about our own particular local church in Campbelltown.

Watch Jason’s 10-minute ‘Welcome Lunch’ video (by scanning the QR code or visiting www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the ‘Session 1 – Video 1’ link) and then reflect together about what was said in the question below.



- ➔ Was there anything new to you in what was said?

- ➔ Why is it important for new people to understand what we are on about as a church?

Who do we want to be?

Leaders should adjust this section according to time available.

Leader Notes

Note that we will dig deeper into both 'maturity' and 'mission growth' in the next two sessions!

On one hand, as Christians, we don't need special vision or mission statements. Jesus has given his church a mission and every Christian has a part to play in that.

However, on the other hand, as the old saying go "*fail to plan, plan to fail*" or "*aim at nothing and you'll hit it every time*", it is helpful as a church to have a specific vision of where we want to be under God and his vision. So, to return to our Vision Statement, we want to be:

A **growing** Christian community devoted to **maturing** in Jesus for the glory of God

The highlighted words are key focus areas for us as a church moving forward. In the next two weeks we'll think more about what they mean and why they are key parts of our vision statement.

For now as a group:

- ➔ What are some specific examples of activities in the life of our church that help to fulfil this vision?

- ➔ Can you think of anything in the life of our church that might distract us from our vision? How could we change that?

You may like to send your thoughts to the Staff Team via the <https://hub.campbelltownanglican.org> "Comments and Prayer requests" button.

Wrapping up

Next week we will dig deeper into what it means to become mature in Christ, how we get there and practically, how your church can help you to grow in your Christian maturity.

Leaders should use this final wrap up to summarise what was covered today.

Leader Notes

After that, the intention is that you use this wrap up section to set the group up for the year ahead. Discuss any expectations you have as the leader, talk about pastoral care, cultivating relationships, and praying for each other. Also, raise any other particular focus areas you would like the group to have – for example to support one of our link missionaries well.

As a group, reflect upon the following questions to help you think about the Members Course in Term 1 and the whole year ahead together:

- ➔ What is the 'vision' for your growth group this year?

- ➔ What have you found helpful and challenging in our introductory session today?

- ➔ Looking ahead, what is your 'vision' for your growing as a Christian this year?

- ➔ What is the vision for your group this year? How will it work week in and week out?

- ➔ Spend some time praying for our church vision, your group's vision and for each other.

Other helpful resources

- What is a Christian? For a short interactive introduction to Christianity see <https://twowaystolive.com/>. For an extended introduction refer to the Principle of Moore College's article: [What is the Gospel?](#)
- What is a Sydney Anglican? <https://sydneyanglicans.net/about/what-we-believe> or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican_Diocese_of_Sydney or <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/are-sydney-anglicans-actually-anglicans/10101188>
- What is an Evangelical? See Bishop J C Ryle's article from the 19th Century: <https://acl.asn.au/resources/evangelical-religion/>
- See 'CAC Functional Structure' diagram in the Appendix of this booklet

➔ **Discussion starter:**

Ask someone in your group who has been a believer for a while to briefly describe their Christian journey – including some of the ups and downs and the growth and change God has worked in them.

What is Christian maturity?

Christian maturity is about growing up in your wisdom and understanding of the gospel, and living changed lives in response to God's word. The Bible talks about maturity as something we are all expected to pursue. If we think of becoming a Christian like a tree planted in good soil, maturity is about remaining in that good soil and continuing to feed the tree with the right food.

Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 2:6-7...

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

➔ **Discuss:** Use Colossians 2:6-7 to explain the difference between a maturing (growing) Christian and an immature Christian.

A Christian who is not maturing is a person who has heard the gospel and then lives as though it makes no difference to their day to day living.

Leader Notes

The maturing Christian, however, is invested or devoted to growing up like a tree with Jesus Christ as their foundation. Trust in Jesus is strengthened through ongoing teaching and results in thankfulness.

Maturity is mandatory!

→ **Watch:** Scan the QR code to watch Simon's 3-minute video (or visit www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Session 2 – Video 1' link) that introduces why maturing in Christ is not just an optional extra in the Christian life.



Look at either or both of the following Bible passages that warn us against not growing.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

→ What words are used in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 to describe immaturity?

Worldly, infants in Christ, not ready for solid food, jealousy and quarrelling, mere humans. Worldliness is a mark of immaturity.

Leader Notes

→ What is Paul's hope for his Christian readers?

That they stop behaving like the rest of the world and live by the Spirit. Be able to move from milk to solid food, remove jealousy and fighting.

Leader Notes

NB: Living by the Spirit is about responding to God's word. This is the measure of maturity ever since Adam and Eve were given the free will to walk with God or make decisions despite his warning.

Hebrews 5:11-14

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's

word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

→ How is a maturing Christian described in this passage?

The maturing Christian is trying to understand - putting in effort to their learning. It is expected that they ought to be teaching others about the Christian faith at some point. They are to move on from the basics of the gospel, familiar with what the bible says about righteousness - actually training themselves to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil. Paul wants them to work towards knowing all that God has told us.

Leader Notes

→ How are the immature described?

Not trying to grow in their knowledge and understanding. Dependent on others for the very simplest of things about the faith. Unfamiliar with God's word and how to apply it for themselves in life.

Leader Notes

→ What does this passage tell us about what solid food is and who should have it?

Being acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. That is, familiar with what righteousness is and pursuing that.

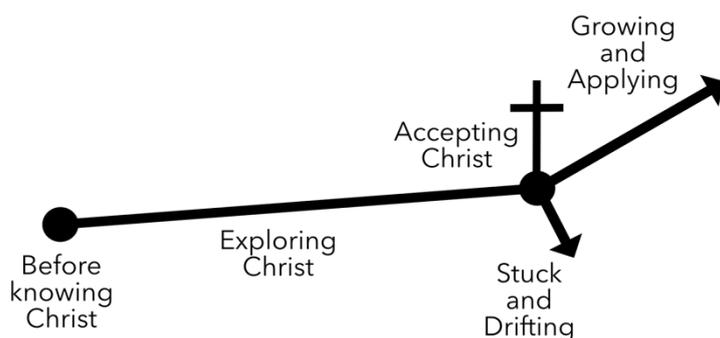
Leader Notes

(It leads us to the grace of God because without his free gift, we are forever unrighteous!) Familiarity with the Scriptures and the knowledge of God's word AND applying it to everyday life is a sign of maturity.

How are you going in Christian maturity?

We have been exploring the difference between someone who is working on maturity compared to someone who is not. The maturing Christian is the one who sees the goal and pursues it. Our goal is to know Christ and allow the word of God to shape our lives.

Maturity can be illustrated by a progress bar like this...



What part does our Church play in each other's Christian maturity?

→ **Watch:** How do we help each other to mature in Christ? Scan the QR code (or visit www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and click on the 'Session 2 – Video 2' link) and watch Simon's 3-minute explanation about the steps we might take to mature in Christ.



Ephesians 4:11-16 paints a picture of the Christian community (church) being a workshop for maturity - we are in this together!

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

→ According to Verses 12-13, what is the goal of church?

“So that...” every member is built up (encouraged) in the same faith and understanding of Christ and mature, that is, grow up in the faith as God has intended. In short, to see maturity in one another, and to become fully like Christ

Leader Notes

→ How is unity in the faith explained in Verses 14-16?

Being able to identify and reject the deceitful teaching of this world (worldly thinking), and speak the gospel to one another (the truth). We are to move forward together - away from the thinking of this world and toward the truth of God's word.

Leader Notes

Growing in Maturity in our church

Campbelltown Anglican Churches offer many ways of being devoted to maturing in Jesus. Some of them are well defined like our Growth and Maturity Pathways below. Others are less well defined and come through serving together, seeing and addressing needs as they arise, and the quiet encouragements that happen as we gather week in and week out with fellow believers.

As a group, reflect upon the opportunities described in the pathways below, and discuss areas that you'd like to grow in with your group.

Our Growth Pathway – from new to established

Our Growth Pathway provides a clear way for us to understand how someone might start brand new with Christ and then push on to maturity in him. In the appendix of this handbook there is a diagram to help you visualise this pathway. However, the key steps in the Growth Pathway are:

- **Meet Jesus:** hear about what Jesus said and did and why he is worth following. We run a range of courses such as our *Exploring Christ* course that provide an opportunity to read the Bible's account of Jesus' life and to reflect on what it means for us.
- **Firm in Jesus:** discover how the grace of God transforms every part of our life as we live our new life of hope and joy because of Jesus. We run a range of courses including our *Firm Foundations* course that helps us to be firm in Jesus as we walk forward in Christ.

- ➔ **In a church congregation:** Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us to gather and to do that regularly. Church is the first place for Christians to be established on a week by week basis. Come ready to listen and to connect with others - to learn, grow, encourage and be encouraged.
- ➔ **Growth Groups** - engage with a small group of church members each week to read and apply the bible together. This is much more personal way to interact with others about God's word and a key part of maturing in Christ in the Campbelltown Anglican Churches.

Our Maturity Pathways – from established to maturing and serving

As we have seen in today's study, the work of maturity is never finished in this life. In Part 2 of this course we will think about six characteristics we would love every member of our church to have. These are marks of maturity that we grow in over time.

In the appendix of this handbook you'll find a picture of many different facets of Christian maturity that we, as a church, aim to help all our members with. However, the sum of these things is a lifelong project, so here are a few examples about how take your next steps in Christian maturity:

- ➔ **Daily Bible reading** - like breakfast (or coffee), reading a part of the Bible with reflection and prayer is an important part of every day. Psalm 1:1-2 says, *"Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."* A little each day will take you a long way in your Christian maturity. Your Growth Group leader or church pastor can help you get something started and help you stay motivated to grow.
- ➔ **Christian Ministry** - serving at Sunday church or during the week will help you feel connected to the church and will grow you to be more like Christ, who *"made himself nothing, by taking the very nature of a servant"* (Phil 2:7) We'll come back to this in the "Every member is a minister" study.
- ➔ **Going Further** - Throughout the year, we offer Sunday afternoon training sessions to dive deeper into the Bible or to upskill in Christian ministry. Keep an eye out for these training sessions and our syllabus for the year. One course that many people find particularly helpful is the Moore College Preliminary Theological Certificate (or PTC for short). This is a great way to go deeper into God's Word and to grow your theological understanding.

Wrapping up

Having reflected upon our Growth and Maturity Pathways, what is one area of Christian maturity that you would like to work on this year?

- ➔ Spend some time as a group praying for one another in this area before turning to wider topics for prayer.

What is God's perspective?

→ Discussion starter:

Imagine you got a job with the ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and were tasked with working out some high-level categories to divide the population into various groups to help us understand ourselves properly.

What key categories would you group Australians into?

→ Read John 3:16-18

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

How does Jesus categorise the people of the world?

Thinking about mission starts with seeing the world through Jesus' eyes. God sees people as either enjoying eternal life because they believe in Jesus, or as condemned already because they have not believed yet. Without this perspective we will not be motivated for the hard work of mission.

Leader Notes

What is God's mission?

→ Read Matthew 28:18-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1. How does Jesus describe himself to his first disciples?
2. What does Jesus command his disciples? What does he promise his disciples?
3. How would you persuade another believer that this command is also for us as disciples today?

- (1) Jesus has all authority and his command is that his disciples make other disciples.
- (2) The first disciples are commanded to (a) go out, being obedient to Jesus and to (b) teach others to be obedient to Jesus (c) trusting in the authority of Jesus and (d) promised to be comforted by his presence.
- (3) Each disciple is commanded to make disciples who obey everything – really every disciple is a disciple making disciple!

Leader Notes

→ **Discussion:**

How did you become a disciple of Jesus? Who first told you the Good News about him?

Have you ever shared the Good News about Jesus with someone else? How did it go?

The necessity of mission

→ **Read Romans 10:9, 13-15**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Paul is agreeing with what Jesus taught: that those who declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in his name will be saved. What is his concern, though?

God judges people on whether or not they know Jesus as Lord and believe in his name. People cannot be saved unless they hear about Jesus. This should concern us as much as it did Paul.

Leader Notes

God's role in mission

→ **Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9**

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who

waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

4. What role does God play in mission?
5. What does this mean for us as we think about mission opportunities?

God is the one in charge, we are his co-workers. Therefore mission is his job and we are joining in. He is the one that makes the growth. Relief! But, he assigns the tasks. We are his co-workers, in God's service. Responsibility!

Leader Notes

Our role in mission – Individually and as a community

6. What role did Paul and Apollos play in the mission to Corinth?

➔ Read Colossians 4:3-6

³ Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

7. In what ways is the Colossian church encouraged to be involved in mission in this passage?

➔ Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

8. Thinking through all of the passages we have read so far, what are all the different general components of mission?

Mission involves prayer, making conversation, being able to answer questions, sending people out to preach, sowing the seed of the gospel, preaching more deeply about Jesus to water the seed, helping someone come to decide to believe in Jesus.

Leader Notes

9. How can a church work well as a body to obey Jesus' command that we go and make disciples for him? What are the different roles which people within the church community do in helping someone to become a Christian?

Brainstorm the various things involved in church life to help someone come to faith in Christ. Range from 1-1 to events, to church services etc etc. Trying to help everyone see they have a role to play, no matter what they're comfortable with.

Leader Notes

God is saving people by his Spirit and through his word. God gives us a role to play in this both as individuals and as a wider church community. Individually, we are called to speak the gospel graciously, to pray for gospel opportunities for us and for those we partner with in mission. As a church body we serve in many different ways in bringing the gospel to those in our community.

Mission: Campbelltown, Sydney, Australia.

10. Think it through: As we think about our local area – do you think that many people will be receptive to the gospel? Would it be older people, or younger people who will be more interested? Do you think that COVID has changed what people are thinking about during this time?



- ➔ **Watch:** Penn Jillette, an atheist, best known for his work with fellow magician Teller as half of the team Penn & Teller, has a surprising response to Christian evangelism. Watch him on YouTube (by scanning the QR code or visiting

www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking on the Session 3 – Video 1 link) and discuss your reactions.

Leaders should consider in their preparation which bits of question 10, 11 and 12 to use. If time permits then all are helpful. If time does not permit then considering whether 10 plus the video or 11 with the survey and question 12 is best for your group.

Leader Notes

➔ **Skim read:** In the appendix, on page 69, quickly look over the extracts of the McCrindle Spirituality survey gauging the opinions of 1,000 randomly selected Sydneysiders.

11. What surprised you about these results? Are people more or less likely to be interested in Spiritual things that you thought?

12. Brainstorm: If 1 in 3 people are 'very likely' (and 2 in 3 are likely!!) to accept an invitation to attend a church service if invited by a friend or family...

a. What culture do we need to foster in church to enable this?

b. Who would you be willing to invite?

➔ **Pray** together about our opportunities to do mission as individuals and together in our community. Pray we would be brave. Pray we would love everyone enough to warn them of hell and offer to help them find eternal life. Pray that we would be enthusiastic and prayerful for mission even if we feel uncomfortable. Pray that we would find whatever role we can do in order to partner with God in his work.

Part 2 – Every member is.....

In Part 2 of our 'Every Member Course' we'll be thinking about some of the characteristics that mark not just a member of our church but a member of the Kingdom of God.

However, before we start thinking about those characteristics, watch Jason's 7-minute video about church membership (*by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and choosing the 'Introduction to Part 2' link*) and then use the questions below to reflect together.



- ➔ What dangers can you see in having a very 'high-bar' for membership in a church? What dangers if the 'bar' is set too low?

- ➔ How does it help our church if we understand what a member is?

- ➔ What were the 3 key criteria that Jason suggested as the baseline for being a member of a church?

Session 4 - Every member is a minister

Note that Session 4 should begin with the overview of Part 2 of this course. See the previous page first and then start session 4 here. Begin with the discussion starter to help people think about ways to serve in the life of church.

Leader Notes

→ Discussion starter

We all know the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' but thinking about churches, what kinds of service from members does it take to be a local church? In a few minutes list as many ways to serve in church life as you can think of:

What is the role of the minister in the church?

Watch Jason's 5-minute video about the role of 'the minister' in the church (by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and choosing the 'Session 4 – Video 1' link) by scanning the QR code. The video refers to the following part of Ephesians 4:

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph 4:11-13).



For many people, this biblical picture of ministry comes as a shock.

(1) Why do you think this is?

Try and include a discussion of 'priests' in this section.

Leader Notes

Often people have a 'high view of the priesthood' that is indicative of an Old Testament style belief in a priest interceding for the people. However, in Christ, we have our true high-priest, and since the Reformation one great biblical reform in church life has been the idea of the 'priesthood of all believers' – in other words, under Jesus, we all have a part to play in serving our churches – not just the 'priest'. In fact, we don't use the term 'priest' in Protestant churches for this exact reason! (And technically the Greek word people in past times translated as priest simply means elder anyway).

You may also find it useful to ask whether modern 'busyness' or 'individualistic capitalism' has led us back to a priestly style of thinking about Ministers. That is, members pay for Ministers to perform a service and this can extend to thinking they should do all the serving.

- (2) Before we spend time looking at the Bible for ourselves in the area of ministry/service, evaluate this statement from your own experience.

"It is only as people begin to serve wholeheartedly in their local church that they begin to realise what Christian joy is all about....."

Is every member a minister?

As a group read the following passages and discuss:

➔ **Read 1 Corinthians 12:5-7**

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- (1) Discuss how God uses both unity and diversity for the good of his church

- (2) Do we therefore expect every Christian to serve in the same way? If not, why not?

→ **Read Mark 10:35-45**

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.
³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

(3) How is the Kingdom of God different to the way the world operates?

(4) Why is the Kingdom of God different to the way the world operates?

→ **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26**

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

(5) Use the message of 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 to discuss the following statements:

The following statements are intended to be provocative and for discussion.

Leader Notes

You don't need to discuss them all if you are stretched for time. Some quick answers are given here just to help you see where the questions are coming from:

- (a) It's helpful to have the right team but it shouldn't be necessary as all Christians should serve regardless. It's certainly not helpful if the team just does all the ministry rather than equip others to do it so they can mature in ministry too.*
- (b) No!*
- (c) Correct!*
- (d) Incorrect – will the gift build up the body of the church? Not all do. Some can be unhelpful even.*
- (e) No – the little toes are needed as much as the mouth etc*
- (f) Correct, so often the 'willing' person finds themselves given what they need by God*
- (g) 4 – all of us (who are Members)*

- (a) A functional church is one where the members of church have employed the right ministry staff to ensure all the works of ministry are well managed by that team.
- (b) In a big church like ours, there are only so many jobs that need doing, so we should not expect everyone to serve.
- (c) The person who is gifted at welcoming people to church is just as important as the person who preaches the sermon in church.
- (d) If we have a particular gift then it is most important that we be allowed to exercise that gift in the life of church.
- (e) Some people's gifts are all just outside of the church so it is difficult for them to express their gifts inside of the church.
- (f) Just because you don't currently have a gift that you'd like doesn't mean you can't pray for God to give you that gift.
- (g) Who are the ministers of our church? Is it (1) the staff team, (2) any ordained person, (3) the leaders of church, (4) all of us?

How can you minister?

→ Reflection

- (1) Take some time to write down your God-given gifts. You may find it helpful to think in terms of your skills, your passions, your capabilities.

- **Homework:** Have you completed our 'Serving' form? You can scan the QR code and complete the form and one of our pastors will get in contact with you soon.



- (2) Discuss with a few members of your group if/how these gifts might be a blessing to your church.
- (3) Spend some time praying that God would equip us for every good work as a church. Also, give thanks to God for the many gifts he has given all our members so that all of us can be the ministers of our church!

Session 5 - Every member is a welcomer

Introduction

God is building his church. It is a family, with Jesus at the head, into which our loving Heavenly Father is inviting people to join. A local church, or congregation, is not a closed club or secret society. God still welcomes people into his family. He is actively at work in the world, calling people to himself, establishing and strengthening them in Christ.

So too, we are called to be like our Father in character and purpose. Therefore, he graciously wants us as partners in his work. We want to warmly welcome people when they visit our church - that as they meet us they might clearly hear the good news about the forgiveness Jesus brings.

Under God's hand, we want to open the front door of our church as wide as possible, doing all that we can to welcome the newcomer, while keeping people from sliding out the back door because we were unloving, uninterested, lazy or disorganised. If a newcomer decides not to return, which they are free to do, we want to make sure that it was not because we failed in our responsibility to them. We must not behave like a cult, nor should we be a loose collection of people idly standing around. We want people to move from being newcomers to regular and committed members who know they belong. We want them to joyfully say, 'This is my church'.

Welcoming – A Resource for Churches, Evangelism Ministries 2007 : currently known as 'Evangelism and New Churches' used with permission.

→ **Activity:** Watch Leanne's video ((by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and choosing the 'Session 5 – Video 1' link) and consider the following two questions as we think about welcoming.



- Do you consider church to be a 'growing Christian community?' Why or why not?
- Describe a time when you visited a new church. What was helpful, unhelpful?

You could ask what other ways they would describe church rather than a 'Christian community.'

Leader Notes

It might be good for people to talk about unhelpful experiences first, avoiding naming the church involved.

When talking about helpful experiences you could finish by telling your own experience of being welcomed at Church.

Welcoming like Jesus

→ **Read:** Read 1 John 4:7-17 together underlining and circling words and phrases that stand out.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

Ask the members of the group to talk about what they underlined/circled etc.

Leader Notes

- How many times is the word love mentioned?
- What is the connection between God's love and our love?
- What do we know, believe, have confidence in and rely on?

- 1) If we are to love in the same way that God loves, what will this mean when it comes to welcoming?
- 2) What will you ask God to change in your life so you are able to love like he does?

→ **Summary:** 'In this world we are like Jesus' (vs 17) !!

Jesus was uniquely the Son of God and provided the atoning sacrifice for our sin. When we acknowledge Jesus, Son of God, as our Saviour and Lord we are welcomed with open arms into God's family. We cannot make atonement for sin but we can point others to Jesus and we can treat others with the same love, compassion and genuine care that Jesus showed.

- 3) What can we learn from the way Jesus treated people when it comes to welcoming the outsider?
- 4) Discuss: “Welcoming, like upfront singing, should be delegated only to those who have gifts in that area”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, why?
- 5) From what we’ve seen so far, can you list 5 qualities that would characterise a church welcomer?
1. A welcomer _____
 2. A welcomer _____
 3. A welcomer _____
 4. A welcomer _____
 5. A welcomer _____

Note the following list would describe many people in any church!

Leader Notes

1. A welcomer is a person who has put their trust in the Lord Jesus.
2. A welcomer seeks to live a life worthy of the gospel at church, work, home and in private. Our lives need to reflect the message we bear.
3. A welcomer feels positive about their church and are excited about sharing church with whoever walks through the door.
4. A welcomer is friendly (sounds obvious but is so important).
5. A welcomer is prayerful and faithful (punctual, regular, reliable).

Ask the group who they think is/might-be particularly gifted in the area of welcoming from amongst the members of the group.

Summary: Some people are gifted at reading the Bible in Church but every member is to seek to engage with the Bible in the service. Some people are gifted at leading singing but every member is to seek to praise God with their voices. Some people are gifted at leading corporate prayer but every member is to seek to engage with God in prayer in the service. Some people are gifted in welcoming but every member is to seek to help the newcomer or fringe member to feel welcomed, connected and loved.

Welcoming is an every-member responsibility

→ **Read:** Read Romans 15:1-7 together underlining and circling words and phrases that stand out.

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Leader Notes

As you prepare read through Romans chapter 14 for context. The Apostle Paul is addressing the division caused by differing opinions when it came to eating food considered unclean or setting apart certain days as special.

14 ⁵One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

The 'strong' (like Paul) were those from a Jewish background who understood the freedom found in Christ from following ceremonial law as a means of pleasing God.

Paul uses a quote from Psalm 69 in verse 3 and puts it in the mouth of Jesus. The 'you' of verse 3 is God.

What was written in former days is the Old Testament Scriptures.

6) Write Romans 15:1 in your own words:

7) What words are repeated in the passage and what is their significance?

8) How does this passage inform us on what our attitude should be as welcome others to church?

9) Write a prayer about your own attitude to coming to church with a view to welcoming the outsider and building up others.

Learning to welcome

10) Take some time to think through last Sunday/Wednesday. Who did you notice was new or newish? How could your group work together to welcome well them next week?

11) As a group, share what you find challenging about welcoming people and might you overcome those challenges? How does being a diverse body of believers rather than just individuals also help overcome those challenges of welcoming people well?

12) Brainstorm prayer points for becoming better at welcoming on a large sheet of paper then pray together.

➔ Pray that every member would be a welcomer. Pray more generally as a group.

Other helpful resources

- “The Welcoming Church” by Peter Corney
- “Becoming a Welcoming Church” by Thom S. Rainer & George W. Sarris
- See the Appendix, page 71, for a helpful Gospel Coalition article on Welcoming

Session 6 - Every member is a partner in world mission

Discussion starters:

Say 'Hello' in as many languages as you can.

Do you think we have a responsibility to ensure the gospel is preached to other nations and people groups? If so, how should we be fulfilling this responsibility?

God's mission to the nations

→ Read Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

*² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

*³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*

1. What promises does God make to Abram?
2. How will the promise 'all peoples on earth will be blessed through you' be fulfilled?
3. What do we learn about God's purposes for the world through these promises?

→ **Read Luke 24:45-49**

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

4. What do we learn about God's desire for all nations in this passage?

5. What is the message that will be preached to all nations?

6. What help does Jesus promise his disciples in fulfilling this task (See also Acts 1:4-8)?

→ **Read Revelation 7:9-10**

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

7. What image are we given of heaven in these verses?

8. Who will be in heaven?

9. What does this teach us about God's mission to the world?

Watch the video (by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Session 6-Video 1' link) by our CMS mission partner Jim French on why world mission matters.



Summary: God's desire is that the gospel would be preached to all nations through the power of the Holy Spirit. God invites us to join him on this mission, to see people of all nations trust in Christ.

How do I get involved in world mission?

As a Church we intentionally support a number of Christian organisations. Whether it be more locally with Macarthur Indigenous Church, further afield in Australia with Bush Church Aid or around the world partnering with CMS (Church Missionary Society), we've made the decision as a church to partner with these ministries financially, prayerfully and relationally. Our financial partnership is under-girded by annually budgeting church-wide giving to these organisations. Additionally, a number of our members choose to direct additional support to these important organisations.

When it comes to world mission, we particularly support our CMS link missionaries.



Jim and Tanja French with Evie and Silas in Spain



Karen (undisclosed secure location)

Watch the CMS support video (by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Session 6- Video 2' link) that summarises the work they do to reach the nations with the gospel.



Practical partnership, according to the Bible

The book of Philippians is a letter from the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi. Paul and the church in Philippi are mission partners, in a similar way that we are mission partners with our CMS link missionaries the French family in Spain and Karen (her last name and location are not shared for safety reasons). The partnership between Paul and the Philippians around the gospel (Philippians 1:5) provides a great model and practical insights into how we can partner in world missions for God's glory.

Work through the Bible passages in the table below to see the practical ways Paul and the church in Philippi partnered in proclaiming the gospel. Then write down the practical ways we can partner in global missions in each of these areas. You can work through each of these sections together or break up into pairs and work on one section each and then share with the rest of the group.

Partnership Area	How does the local church in Philippi and Paul partner in gospel work?	How can we be partners in global mission in this area?
Prayer	Philippian 1:3-6, 1:9-11, 1:18b-19	
Financially	Philippians 4:15-19	
Spiritual Encouragement	Philippians 1:27-30, 3:17-21, 4:2-3	
Pastoral Care	Philippians 2:19-30	
Going ourselves	Philippians 2:19, 2:25	

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- **Watch** Jason Moss' 3-minute summary (by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Session 6- Video 3' link) that summarises all that we've seen and helps us think about ways to keep supporting world mission.



Summary:

The gospel partnership between the local church in Philippi and the apostle Paul is a great example of partnering in global mission. Theologian John Stott said 'We need to become global Christians with a global vision, for we have a global God.' God has a desire to see the gospel preached to all nations. Will you join God and the global church in ensuring that all people on earth have the opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the good news of Jesus?

- **Consider:** My next step to partner in global missions is...
- **Pray** together that the gospel would continue to be proclaimed throughout the world. Pray for our link CMS missionaries The French family and Karen. Pray that every member of our church would be faithful in helping the gospel be proclaimed among the nations.

Other helpful resources

- **The persecuted church**

- Voice of the martyrs - vom.com.au
- Open doors - opendoor.org.au
- **Church Missionary Society (CMS)**
 - CMS - cms.org.au
 - CMS Summer School Annual Conference - <https://www.nswsummerschool.org.au/>
- **Unreached people groups**
 - The Joshua Project - joshuaproject.net
- **Praying for gospel work in every nation**
 - Operation World - operationworld.org
- **Books**
 - Becoming Global- Integrating Global Mission and your local church, By Bruce Dipple

Session 7 - Every member is a pastoral carer

Introduction



- **Activity:** Watch Leanne's 5-minute summary (*by scanning the QR code or visiting campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and clicking the 'Session 7- Video 1' link*) and reflect together about what was said by completing the following sentence:

Pastoral Care is: _____

Ask all members of the group to share their completed sentences and take note to compare with the same exercise at the end of the study.

Leader Notes

Understanding 'Pastoral Care'

The word 'pastoral' comes from the idea of shepherding the sheep. Look at the following passages to see the significance of the shepherding imagery in the Bible.

- 1) Complete the following table as a group:

Some passages are longer than others.

Leader Notes

I suggest you look at Genesis 49:22-26 together then divide the next 5 passages up depending on the size of your group. Point out that not each heading will apply to the passage they have been assigned (so not all boxes need to be filled). Finally look at Revelation 7:17 together.

Verses to consider:	Note what these verses say about:		
	GOD as Shepherd	GOOD Shepherds	BAD Shepherds
Genesis 49: 22-26			
Ezekiel 34: 1-16			
Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-6			
Psalms 78:70-72			
Psalms 23			
John 10: 1-14			
Revelations 7: 17			

Who is responsible for pastoral care?

If Pastoral Care is about Shepherding, then who is responsible for pastoral care?

Ultimately, God is our Shepherd (Psalm 23). Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep (John 10). God is the one who rescues us from our enemies (sin and death), feeds us by his word, guides us by his Spirit, leads us along the path of righteousness, is present with us in dark days, gives us rest for our souls and prepares for us a place at his table in our eternal home.

Until Christ returns Church leaders (under God) are called to shepherd the flocks under their care (Acts 20:28-32 ; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

→ **Discuss:** *“The Minister/Pastor is responsible for all the pastoral care that happens at church.”*

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

From the verses we have already looked at the Minister/Pastor does have pastoral oversight of the Church/Congregation/Group they lead but the Minister cannot possibly do all pastoral care alone.

Leader Notes

The next section will look at the responsibility every member has to care for others.

Christian Care: the responsibility of every believer

Before reading the passages below let them know that these words are written to believers regarding our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leader Notes

The following passage may cause the discussion to go on a tangent about caring for the homeless in our community, if this happens then let them know that there are ways that they can be involved in caring for those outside the church community through Anglicare and pass their details on to us.

2) Read 1 John 3: 16-24; 4:19-21 together underlining and circling words and phrases that stand out:

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The

one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

4:19-21: ¹⁹ *We love because he first loved us.* ²⁰ *Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.* ²¹ *And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

Ask the members of the group to talk about what they underlined/circled etc.

Leader Notes

- What does it look like to lay down our life for others? (sacrificial/ costly love)
- How does verse 17 and 18 answer the above question?
- How do we know we belong to Christ? (3: 19, 24)
- What does a life pleasing God look like? (3: 21,22 and 4:21).

We love because he first loved us

Reading the first 11 chapters of Romans we see clearly how God demonstrates his love for us in Christ. In Christ we receive mercy, grace, forgiveness, a right standing before God and we are freed from the condemnation our sins deserve. From Romans chapter 12 on we discover what a life in Christ looks like, how we are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ from the love and mercy we ourselves have received from God.

Read: Romans 12:1-13

12 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

⁹ *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

3) What, from the passage, is to be our motivation for caring for others?

4) What is our relationship to others at Church/ Growth Group? How do you feel about this?

Biblical Pastoral Care in relationship with others (if time permits read this together)

Sally Sims' book 'Together through the Storm' is helpful in thinking about Biblical Pastoral Care in relationship with others. On page 11 of Sally's book, in the section entitled 'Christian care: What is it?' she writes:

"Christian care involves reaching out to others in need, listening attentively, and bearing witness to God's grace and presence through our words and deeds. We offer this kind of care with the understanding that any difference we make is only possible because of God's love for us. By his grace, God transforms our hearts and minds so that we can look beyond our own interests to love others. As we grow in his grace, it becomes more natural for us to look for opportunities to care for others – particularly in the context of church and our everyday relationships, but also beyond.

In our care for others, we can be tempted to focus on people's problems (which may be overwhelming at times), and overlook their spiritual needs or give scant attention to ministry of the word and prayer. But caring for others is more than practical expressions of Christian love; we are ultimately concerned with helping people to connect with Christ and move forward in their relationship with him. We are to come alongside other people and interact with them in ways that help to strengthen their relationship with Jesus. We must always do this sensitively and with humility acknowledging that we are all needy and broken. We want to keep the brokenness of humankind in view while we point people to God and to the gospel. If we don't do this, we run the risk of either becoming insensitive to a person's anguish or losing sight of God's promises.

Therefore, as we care for one another, we need to keep prayer and God's word central."

5) What gifts has God given you to care for others at Church/Growth Group?

If the people in the group know each other you could ask them to give feedback to each other about the perceived gifts in the group. A person might be a great listener, encourager, gift giver, baker, lift giver, anniversary rememberer (new word!), card giver etc.

Leader Notes

6) What does 'sincere' love look like? And how do we sustain this sort of love? (9-11)

7) How does verses 11 and 12 help us think through what Christian care looks like?

8) Now that we have navigated the biblical resources, complete this sentence a second time and compare it to your first definition:

Pastoral Care is _____

Pastoral Care in action

→ Scan the QR code summary (or visit campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and click the 'Session 7-Video 2' link) to watch this video testimony of Pastoral Care happening in our church.



9) What's your experience of Pastoral Care? Divide into pairs or small groups to tell the story of Pastoral Care you've received or that you've seen other people receive.

Small groups or pairs would be most helpful.

Leader Notes

In a pair it may work best to have each member of the pair listen to one another and then swap over. After that, you could ask a few people to share the story that they heard with the wider group.

Please be aware that some people in the group may feel a lack of care from their church family, please offer for them to chat with a member of staff if this comes up in discussion.

10) (Time Permitting) To draw together our thinking on Pastoral Care, discuss:

- What are some of the obstacles to caring?
- How can we better care for the people in our Growth Group?

- How can we care for people in our wider church community?
- Who will I seek to care for this week?

➔ Pray that every member of our church would be involved in pastoral care

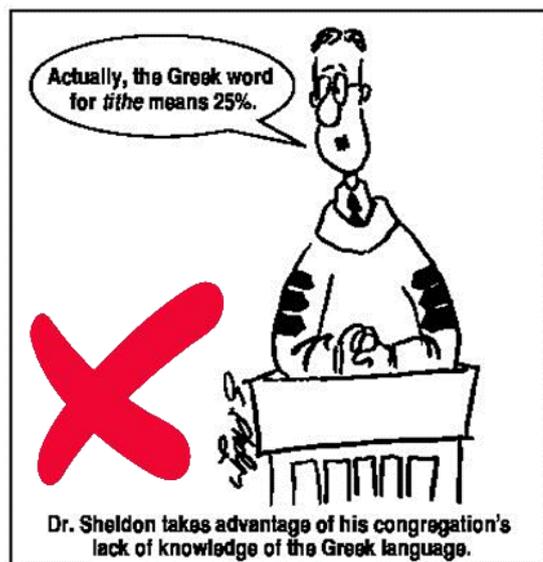
Other helpful resources

- Articles from The Gospel Coalition:
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pastoral-care/>
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pastoral-care-2-small-groups/>
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pastoral-care-3-doing-life-together/>
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pastoring/>
 - <http://www.mentalhealthinstitute.org.au/about-us#>
- “Together Through the Storm: A Practical Guide to Christian Care”, by **Sally Sims** (Matthias Media)
- “Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships”, by Edward T. Welch

Session 8 - Every member partners financially

Jesus' teaching about money is stark. He said "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt 6:21) and "no one can serve two masters.....you cannot serve both God and money" (Luke 16:13). So, it is somewhat surprising that his modern followers find it uncomfortable to talk about what we do with our money and even more uncomfortable about the idea of "tithing" (or "church giving") a specific amount of our income.

This study investigates the pattern of giving throughout the Bible to help us clarify whether and how "tithing" applies to us (and makes sure Dr Sheldon to the right is not taking advantage of us!).



Discussion starter

On the 19th of October 1987, the American stock market crashed in an event that has since been labelled "Black Monday". About 6 weeks later, the movie "Wall Street" was released which has become a classic for portraying the financial excess of the 1980's.

OPTIONAL: Watch a short clip from 'Wall Street' (Scan the QR code or visit www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and click on Study 8 – Video 1).



It seems that as a society we don't mind talking about the dangers of money when it's in the hands of executives and large corporations. However, at an individual level, talking about how we use our money is considered very impolite.

Take a moment to indulge your impoliteness and brainstorm a list of questions that would be completely inappropriate to ask your neighbours / work colleagues / friends and family about their money:

Why would people find it impolite for us ask these questions?

Tithing in the Old Testament law

→ Read Leviticus 27:30-31

³⁰ “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. ³¹ Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it.

God spoke this command about the ‘tithe’ through Moses. Who does the ‘tithe’ belong to and what does that mean for the Israelites thinking about giving?

God actually owns that tenth, it belongs to him without discussion, therefore a decision about giving does not actually need to be made.

Leader Notes

➔ **Read Malachi 3:7-12**

⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Were God’s Old Testament people satisfying the law of a ‘tithe’ for giving? How does God respond?

They are not tithing! God responds as though they are personally robbing from him. God is punishing them by withholding his good provision. They have “left” God and so he has left them. Tithing is considered very seriously by God in the Old Testament.

Leader Notes

Jesus gets to the heart of tithing in the New Testament

➔ **Read Matt 23:23.**

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

What is the Pharisee’s misunderstanding about the law? What should they have done?

Pharisees have overemphasised the minutiae of the law – tithing even each of their herbs. They have focused on the details and ignored God’s “important” teachings of acting with justice, mercy and responding in faith to God.

Leader Notes

Background Context for the 2 Corinthians reading below:

Most of Paul’s third missionary journey was concerned with gathering financial donations for the poverty-stricken Christians in Jerusalem who were still suffering long-term effects of a famine (see Acts 11:27-30 for the first mention of assistance). Part of Paul’s purpose of writing this letter was to remind the Corinthians of their promised donations. Titus was the courier, so that the Corinthians would have plenty of time to fulfill what they had pledged and have the money ready for Paul by the time he arrived for his third visit to them on his way back to Jerusalem with the donations from all of the other churches (Acts 20:2-3).

→ **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.**

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you^[a]—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹²For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

¹³Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”^[b]

- How would you describe the Macedonian giving? What are their motivations?

Inspired by God's grace. They felt joy, which, in spite of affliction and poverty, led them to give above and beyond their own ability.

Leader Notes

What are their motivations? They wanted to share in the ministry to the Christians in Jerusalem, plus they considered to be giving themselves "to the Lord".

- In verse 9, what kind of wealth is Paul talking about?

Jesus was rich – ie being in relationship with God the Father is rich. Becoming human = leaving heaven for the poverty of life here. The Corinthians are now considered to be made rich because of Christ (= the gospel).

Leader Notes

- What guidelines for giving should the Corinthians have understood from this passage?

Understand how much Jesus gave up for them and let that be your motivation.

Leader Notes

Also, it's not about making others financially rich whilst you are left in need – about sharing equally with other Christians. Giving is part of excelling in God's grace (which is generously given to us).

➔ Read 2 Cor 9:5-12

So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."^[a]

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

- What principles do we learn about giving from this passage?

It is considered as a good work (vs 8), because of God's grace (vs 8). It should be a cheerful gift, not as a result of extortion from leaders (vs 7 and 5).

Leader Notes

Giving leads to a harvest of some sorts. Giving should not lead to fear that we will not have everything we need, because God promises to provide for us (vs 8).

- As we learnt in the Ten Commandments series, Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Based upon what we have learnt above, if Jesus fulfills the law of the 'tithe' for the Christian, what kind of tithe is appropriate for a Christian?

The OT pattern was good – teaches us that God gives us everything, it all belongs to him. We give out of his generosity first to us.

Leader Notes

Tithing was a good pattern in the OT to show how to provide for those in need, how to be hospitable to those who don't have as much, how to share with others whilst rejoicing in God's provision. Jesus fulfills that and more – we now have the gospel to share. We can, by God's grace, follow Jesus' example of making ourselves poor to benefit others in need. We are actually rich, as we now have the gospel. We are not under a 10% law, though it is a good guide, but we are set free to give more because of God's abundant grace to us or less if our situation of employment etc may require it to live.

Biblical examples of generosity



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We've considered some of the important motivations for being generous with our money in church life. Before we turn to the practicalities of giving in our own situation, it is helpful to see that the Bible is also full of practical examples of what generosity looks like. Divide up the following passages amongst the group and get each member to summarise the verse and answer the practical questions arising from the verse.

The following section should be used depending upon time available.

IF you have not time consider these as homework questions!

IF you just have a short amount of time then divide the passages amongst the group and limit the time for reading and answering the questions.

Brief answers are suggested below for the leaders to use to help your group quickly get to the heart of the answers.

1. Read Luke 12:14-34: What attitude should we have towards our money and worldly possessions? *They're not going to last. God will provide what we need. Invest in God's kingdom work and build up your treasure there instead.*
2. Read Mark 12:41-44: What can we learn about giving from the widow? *God doesn't care about actual amount, he care about the proportion.*
3. Read Galatians 6:6-10: What priorities with regard to giving are in this passage? *Share all good things with those who teach you the Bible. Prioritise your church family.*
4. Read Matthew 19:16-22: What can we learn about money from the rich man? *Following Jesus needs to be more important to us than possessions. We need to be concerned about treasure in heaven.*
5. Read John 17:16: How does our spiritual reality help us to view the things of this world, including money? *We don't belong to this world. Therefore the worldly things such as money, should not have any sort of hold over us.*
6. Read Acts 5:1-11: What do we learn about giving from Ananias and Sapphira? *Their money was theirs to do with as they wanted. God was more concerned about honesty than about how much money they were donating.*
7. Read Philippians 4:10-20: What can we learn from the Philippians? *The Philippians shared with Paul when he was in need. Paul has learned the secret of contentment, but he was pleased that they gave money to him, because he can see that they are pleasing God by their generosity.*
8. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4: What can we learn about giving from Paul's teaching to the Corinthians? *Regular, committed. Not emotional.*
9. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18: Is it right to pay people who direct affairs in the church? *Yes! They should be generously compensated.*
10. Read Hebrews 13:15-16: What can we learn from these instructions about giving in Hebrews? *Giving and sharing with others pleases God.*
11. Read Romans 12:1-8: Can giving be seen as a part of our worship of God? Does the gift of giving seem to be a rare gift to you? *Yes – and it starts with our whole selves being given to God. Yes, a rare gift. Given the statistics in churches!*

1. Luke 12:14-34 -What attitude should we have towards our money and worldly possessions?

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life^[a]? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

²⁷ "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Read Mark 12:41-44 -What can we learn about giving from the widow?

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

3. Read Galatians 6:6-10 -What priorities with regard to giving are in this passage?

⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

4. Read Matthew 19:16-22 -What can we learn about money from the rich man?

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ "Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother, ²⁰ and 'love your neighbor as yourself. ²¹'"

²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

5. Read John 17:16 -How does our spiritual reality help us to view the things of this world, including money?

¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

6. Read Acts 5:1-11 -What do we learn about giving from Ananias and Sapphira?

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

7. Read Philippians 4:10-20 -What can we learn from the Philippians?

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

8. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 -What can we learn about giving from Paul's teaching to the Corinthians?

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

9. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18 -Is it right to pay people who direct affairs in the church?

¹⁷ *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸ *For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,”^[a] and “The worker deserves his wages.”^[b]*

10. Read Hebrews 13:15-16 -What can we learn from these instructions about giving in Hebrews?

¹⁵ *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.* ¹⁶ *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

11. Read Romans 12:1-8 -Can giving be seen as a part of our worship of God? Does the gift of giving seem to be a rare gift to you?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

³ *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* ⁴ *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ *so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* ⁶ *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Generosity for us

At the start of this session we reflected upon how people often find talk of money to be impolite. However, for the Christian, the way we use our money and resources is just another part of how we glorify God.

So, like any area of godliness, there is a practical and intentional component in deciding how you will respond to God’s generosity to you.

Reflect on the following questions as a group (and if time permits you may find it useful to scan the QR code or visit

www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and click on Study 8 – Video 2) to reflect upon Jason’s answer to these questions.



1. There are many ways to direct our generosity, how do we prioritise?
2. How do we decide how much to give?
3. How do we become better at talking about this important area of godliness?



Prayer

We began with what Jesus said about money: *where our treasure is, there will be our heart also.*
So Pray for every member of our church:

- Pray we will glorify God with our money
- Pray we find joy in wholehearted generosity for God's Kingdom and do not feel giving as an obligation
- Pray we may be thankful and enjoy the good things God has given us
- Pray that we repent of our temptations to be worldly with our wealth
-

Other resources

- See Arya Darmaputra's (Honorary Treasurer) excellent guide to giving and all things financial on our hub: <https://campbelltownanglican.org/hub/giving/>
- What are the church bank details for giving?

BSB: 062-517

Acct Number: 28044387

Acct Name: St. Peter's Anglican Church Campbelltown

Note: Cash giving is available at all our services.

- If you have any detailed questions about our budget or finances, how to give or to think about giving, please contact Arya Darmaputra our Honorary Treasurer (treasurer@campbelltownanglican.org).

Session 9 - Every member is a discipler¹

We began this course looking at our church mission statement and our two vision focus areas. We investigated the first, **Mission Growth**, by carefully considering Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 and concluding that every disciple is to be a disciple making disciple. We investigated the second, **Christian Maturity**, by delving into Colossians 1:28 and 2:6 amongst other passages.

In today's final session of our membership course, we will see that Mission Growth and Christian Maturity are intimately linked together. That's because the journey to the Kingdom of God follows the same trajectory for every Christian – a journey from the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of light where the believer keeps growing to be more and more like Jesus by God's powerful work in them.

In God's kindness, it is often the case, that a mature Christian takes aside another person and intentionally seeks to help them mature in their faith. This session is practical session about how we can all be a part of God's life changing work in others.

Discussion starter:

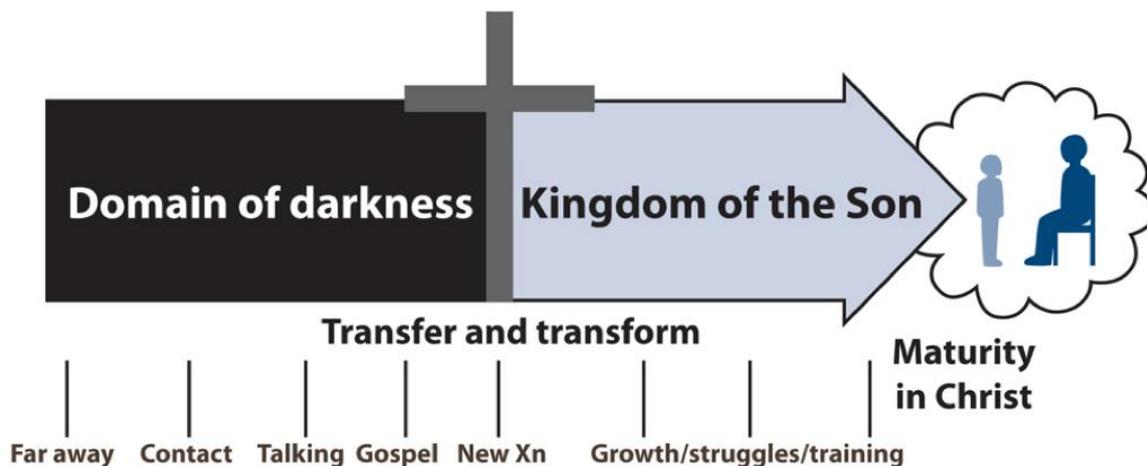
Ask several members of the group: who is someone who intentionally disciplined you and what kinds of things were beneficial to help you grow?

Making and teaching disciples

The diagram below reminds us that we are all on a maturity pathway. Try and come up with some examples of people you know at various stages in the diagram (avoid using names!). Describe where

¹ A 'discipler' is someone who disciplines others!

they are up to now and what you think is their next step to the right on the diagram?



The first major step for everyone is to move from the domain of darkness and into the Kingdom of God through Christ. But maturing continues as our faith is strengthened. We grow in knowledge, we wrestle with living out our faith and we are trained.

Leader Notes

Some group members may find it hard to come up with some concrete examples of people at various stages of the diagram. So feel free to use these anonymised examples.

Lisa – Lisa's been a part of our church for many years. She'll generally be at church once or twice a month. She's not in a Growth Group because life is too busy but she really does want to know Jesus better. How might you help her take a step to the right?

Bart – Bart's never been to church. He always jokes that the building will fall on him if he did walk through the church doors. He's not anti-God, he's just pro enjoying his life as it is. Life's short, play hard he says. How might you help him take a step to the right?

Wilma – Wilma's the salt of the earth at church! Always serving, loving, caring. A great model that other's look at. She's loves God's word and probably has the best personal bible reading pattern of anyone at church. Most of the ways she serves are practical and hasn't done much in the way of bible based ministry. Many of the younger women look at her and hope she'll meet up with them. What might be a step to the right for her?

Being a discipler



→ **Watch** this short 2 minute video which introduces us to the concept of disciple making (*you can scan the QR code or visit www.campbelltownanglican.org/memberscourse and click on Study 9 – Video 1*).

We're going to look at the age-old method of discipleship which consists of three key ingredients. It is something a Christian does (1) **with another person**, on a regular basis, (2) **for an agreed amount of time**, with the intention of (3) **reading and discussing the Bible**.

With another person...

Discipleship is a partnership between a trainer and a student in an informal way. One example of this is an older Christian at church to spend time with a younger person in the faith. Brainstorm what type of relationships could be discipleship relationships?

Some examples:

Leader Notes

Older-to-younger (in the faith); Parent-to-child; Christian-to-Non-Christian; Christian-to-Neighbour/work friend. The key to this discussion is to identify relationships where you could help someone else grow in their faith.

→ **Read:** 2 Timothy 2:1-10

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

1. Describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy.
2. List all the ways Paul is discipling Timothy in this passage:

3. What would you find most challenging in following Paul's example in discipling someone?

For an agreed amount of time...

4. When starting a new discipleship relationship it is important to set the terms of the arrangement from the start. Why would this be?

It's all about being intentional. Both the trainer and the student ought to be conscious of the relationship. If it's not specified up front someone may think this is life long, others might think it's simply a catchup for coffee. Some might think once a year is plenty, while others think it's a 3 hour counselling session every week. But if you were thinking weekly or fortnightly meetings, for 90 minutes each time, set it up that way from the start or there's bound to be disappointment!

Leader Notes

When you ask someone to read the bible with you, you could say, let's do this for 12 months, then next year, we'll both do the same with someone else. If this pattern continued for 10 years, there'd be 2 in year 1, 4, in year 2, 8 in year 3 and after 10 years you'd have started a movement of 1024 people being intentionally disciplined!

→ **Read:** 1 Timothy 6:11-14

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

5. This is Paul's commissioning of Timothy for ministry. What do we learn about the direction of discipleship from it?

Did you know? A thousand people were asked: “would you read the bible with me?”. The answer is astounding:

“We asked a total of 1,000 twenty-something unchurched people, and we compared them to a sample of 500 older unchurched (30 and above)...One of the questions that we asked them to agree or disagree with was: “I’d be willing to study the Bible if a friend asked me to”. Well, among twenty-somethings, 61 percent said, “Yes”. And among their older counterparts of 30 and above, 42 percent said, “Yes”.¹

Reading and discussing the Bible

→ **Read: 2 Timothy 3:10-17**

¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God ^p may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

6. How important is the Bible in Paul’s discipleship relationship with Timothy?

"Imagine if all Christians, as a normal part of their discipleship, were caught up in a web of regular Bible reading - not only digging into the Word privately, but reading it with their children before bed, with their spouse over breakfast, with a non-Christian colleague at work once a week over lunch, with a new Christian for follow up once a fortnight for mutual encouragement, and with a mature Christian friend once a month for mutual encouragement...It's an exciting thought!" (The Trellis and the Vine, 2009, p57)

Plan to start as a discipler

- **A pattern to get started with:** A Christian parent has the responsibility to disciple their child for as long as that relationship is alive. The nature of the discipling must change as the child grows.

While a lot of discipling can be done 'as you go' in life, there is great benefit in coming together to read the bible and talk about how the gospel impacts all of life.

For a Christian meeting with someone else to read the bible one-to-one, a good way to begin is to agree to meet once a week for 8 weeks. On the 8th week, discuss whether it would be good to continue for a further 8 weeks.

- **Start with a seed: a P.I.P.**

- **Pray.** Find the 'who' and talk to God about that person. You can pray for a while about it and ask for God to provide a moment to ask them to read the bible with you.
- **Invite.** Would you like to read the bible with me?
- **Plan.** When will you meet? What will you read? How often will you meet and where?

- **Then: Read, Talk, Pray.**

In Growth Groups we often refer to the COMA method to help us read the Bible.

1. **Context:** What has happened so far in the chapter, book or Bible?
2. **Observation:** What do you see in the text? What surprises you? What inspires you? What challenges you? Observation is about listening to the Bible *before* we jump to conclusions.
3. **Meaning:** Sum up what is there and why.
4. **Application:** Now what?

The COMA approach to reading the Bible helps us to put context and listening (observation) at the top and leave the conclusion and application till after we've reflected.

➔ **The Goal and Challenge: to be a disciple-making disciple**

Read the Bible with someone for 8 weeks. Then meet with them one more time and discuss how they could find someone to read the Bible with for 8 weeks. If you did this only once each year, imagine the network that could be created by this!

We have the whole Bible as our treasure trove but here are three Bible reading plans for three different purposes.

	For the pre-Christian	For a new Christian	For a maturing Christian
1.	Mark 1:1-15	1. Philippians 1:1-11	1. Romans 5:1-11
2.	Mark 2:1-12	2. Philippians 1:12-26	2. Romans 5:12-21
3.	Mark 3:7-35	3. Philippians 1:27-2:11	3. Romans 6:1-14
4.	Mark 8:22-38	4. Philippians 2:12-30	4. Romans 6:15-23
5.	Mark 10:17-45	5. Philippians 3:1-9	5. Romans 7:1-6
6.	Mark 14:53-15:15	6. Philippians 3:10-4:1	6. Romans 7:7-25
7.	Mark 15:16-39	7. Philippians 4:2-9	7. Romans 8:1-17
8.	Mark 15:42-16:8	8. Philippians 4:10-23	8. Romans 8:18-39

➔ **PRAY:**

- For our own discipling and maturing in Christ
- For existing opportunities to disciple others
- For help to be obedient to the Great Commission, being a disciple making disciple!
- That every member of our church would be a discipler too!

Conclusion: Your invitation.....

We pray you've enjoyed our 'Every Member Course' in Growth Groups for Term 1 2022.

To finish together please watch the final short video by scanning the QR code now and hear the invitation to reset and restart together in our church for the glory of God.

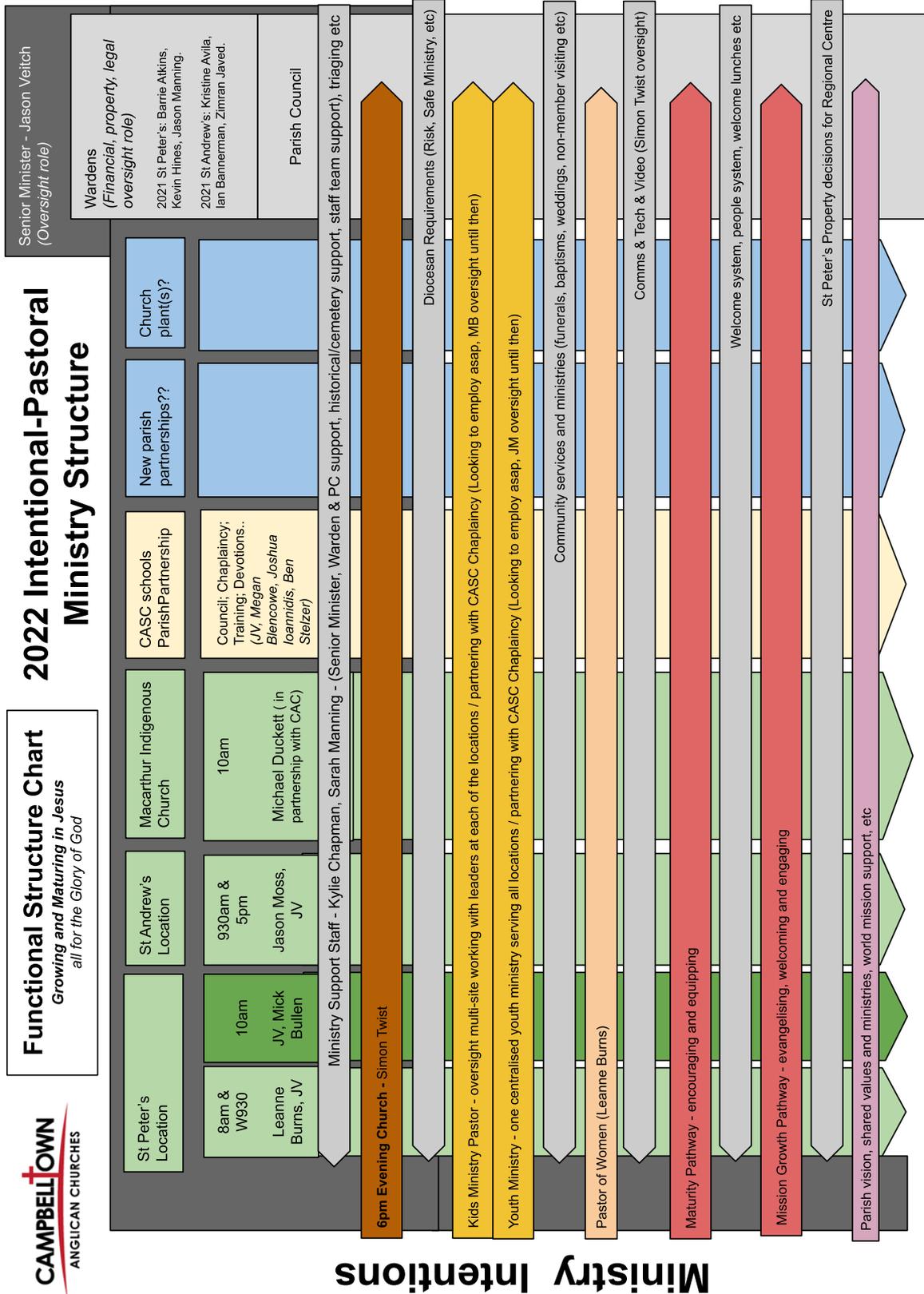
To close off the course as a group:

- 1) What is one thing you've learnt during this course?
 - 2) What is one thing you want to change?
 - 3) What is one thing someone in your group has encouraged you with?
- ➔ **Pray:** about these things as a group.

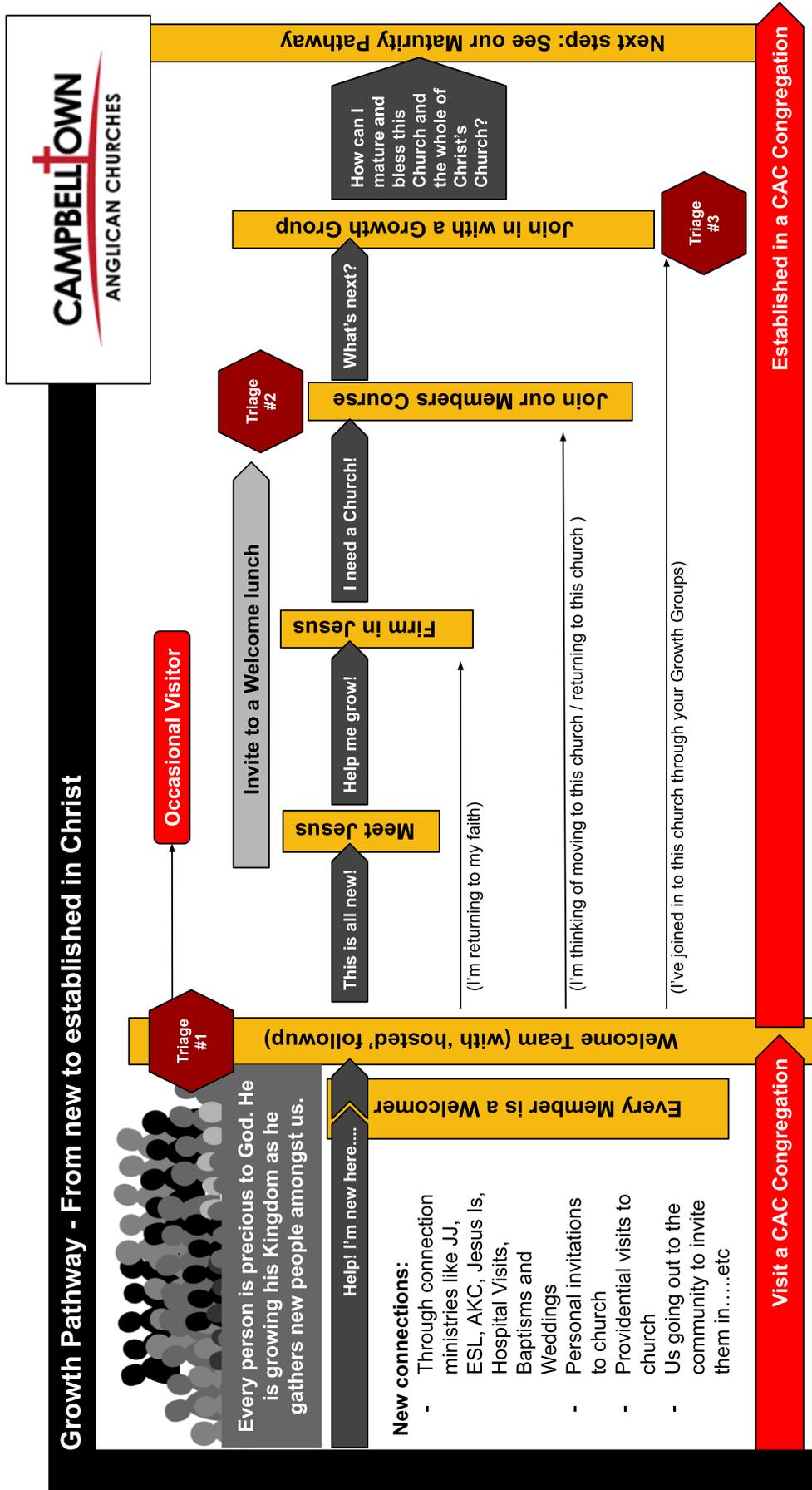


If you have feedback or encouragement please send it through on the "Comments and Prayer Requests" section of the hub.campbelltown.church.

Ministry Support



Our Growth pathway



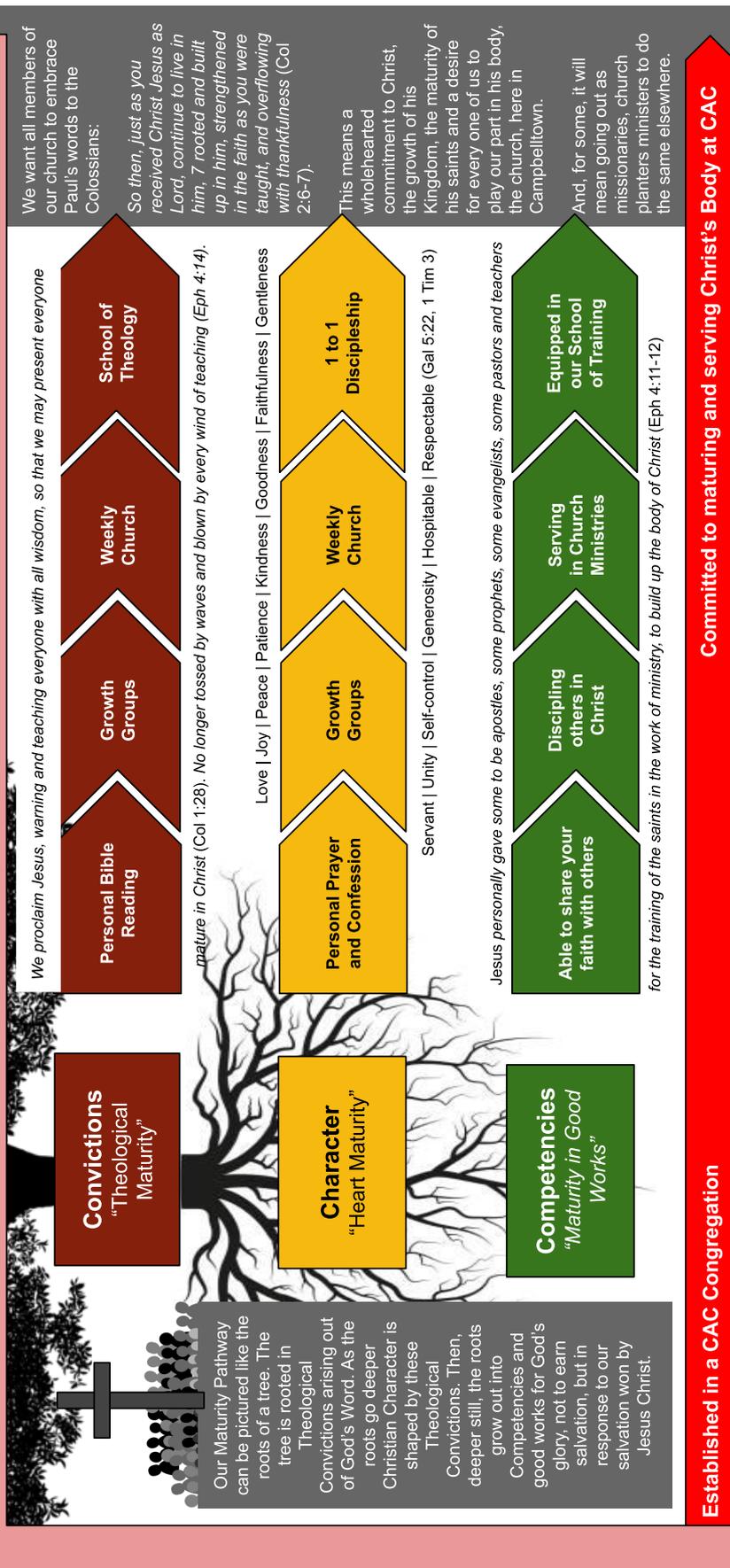
Growing and Maturing in Jesus

All for the Glory of God

Maturity Pathways



Maturity Pathway - Encouraging & Equipping - From established in faith to maturing and serving Christ's Church

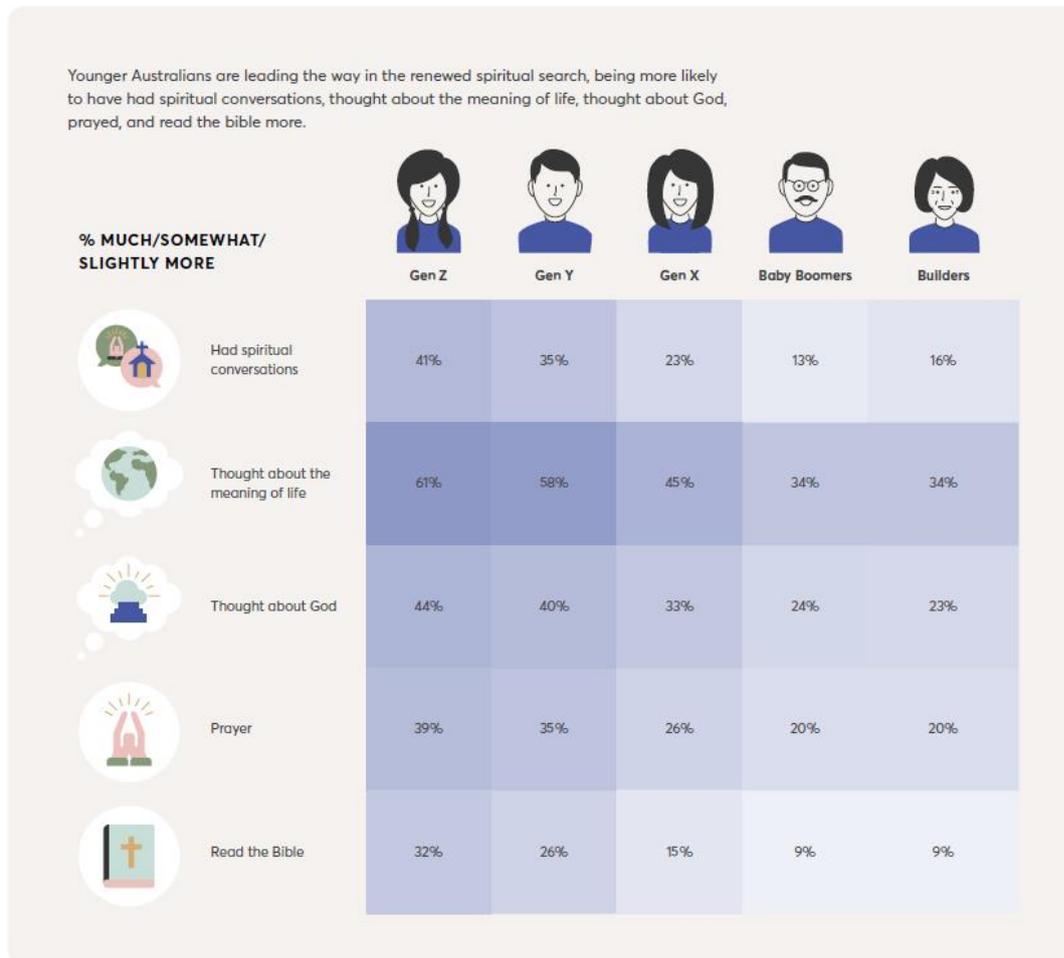


Established in a CAC Congregation

Committed to maturing and serving Christ's Body at CAC

McCrindle Research – Australian Spiritual Climate Report

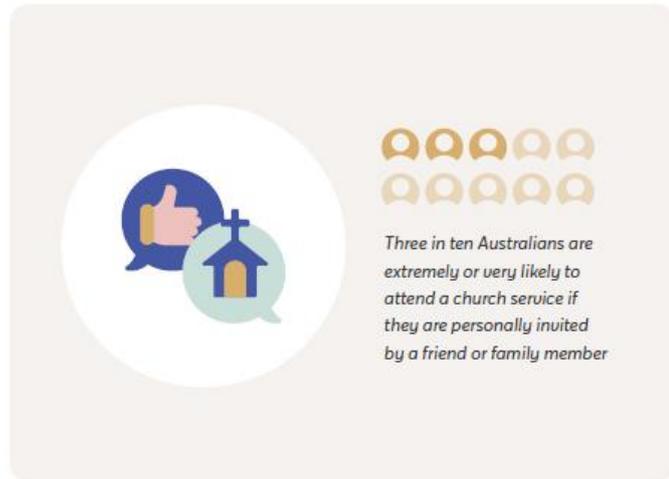
The following 3 infographics are excerpts from McCrindle’s “Australian Spiritual Climate report” released in October 2021.



Most would be likely to attend a church service if invited

Two thirds of Australians are likely to attend a church service either online (64%) or in-person (67%) if personally invited by a friend or family member. Three in ten Australians are extremely or very likely to attend a church service online (31%) or in-person (33%) if they were invited by a friend or family member.

Far from religion and spirituality being only for older Australians, younger Australians are twice as likely to be extremely or very likely to attend a church service if personally invited by a friend or family member.



% extremely or very likely to attend a church service either online or in-person if personally invited by a friend or family member.

	Gen Z	Gen Y	Gen X	Baby Boomers	Builders
ONLINE	45%	43%	20%	21%	25%
IN-PERSON	44%	39%	25%	27%	34%

Welcoming (The Gospel Coalition article) by Melissa Brown

A new start.

We have just moved house and are looking for a new church to call home. Armed with a recommendation from friends we arrive and receive a greeting as we walk through the door and take a seat. There is the usual last minute chaos as people run around to fix the projector and set up Communion. The Pastor and his wife introduce themselves briefly before kickoff. That's nice.

After the service we decide to stay for coffee. No one approaches.

We leave 20 minutes later, disappointed and discouraged.

The next two weeks the same thing happens. The pastor and his wife are the only people who approach us. We decide to take the initiative and talk to others. They seem friendly enough. The sermons are good so we decide to stay and tough it out. It takes four months to get our first lunch invitation.

Not the warmest welcome.

Another Sunday, Steve and I are on holiday in Sydney and decide to go to the church near our hotel.

We walk in and at once are identified as newcomers. We're given a ribbon to pin on chest so we are visible to all. A person is then designated to follow ("welcome") and sit with us. It's a little weird. During the service, the leader asks visitors to stand up and be welcomed by the church. We nervously stand ... applause! Well, thank you.

Not the most authentic welcome. We're glad we are only on holiday.

The Struggle to Welcome

I'm sure that everyone has a "welcome" story. I know I've had many more than I could write about. Churches struggle to welcome with genuine love and sincerity. It is often reduced to a greeting or handshake at the door or at the other extreme, clinical stalking and bordering on desperate.

Churches struggle to welcome with genuine love and sincerity. It is often reduced to a greeting or handshake at the door or at the other extreme, clinical stalking and bordering on desperate.

I think we need to change the way we view welcoming in our churches. I want to suggest that welcoming is not a process or a system but a mind-set. We are a family, albeit a very big and diverse family, but a family nonetheless. And what do families do? They love and include and embrace and have affection for each other, even if they are a bunch of dysfunctional misfits (sinners). But stop, what do families really do? How do they interact and live with each other? Think about it, a good family is playful, comfortable, natural, and genuine with each other. I believe that's what people are hoping to 'sense' when they walk into a church.

This family mind-set can be cultivated among your regular congregation. Seeing Sunday mornings as an opportunity to simply enjoy our church family and welcome newcomers into it, shifts our gaze from 'self-conscious' process to easy 'other-centeredness'. The first commandment of welcoming is simple, "Relax! Stop trying so hard."

Welcoming is not complex. Yet it's rarely done well. A warm, genuine, natural, accepting welcome will help grow a gospel-centred church. The following tips (in no particular order) are designed to help us welcome people into your family in a natural and genuine way.

10 Tips for Effective Welcoming

1. Get to know them. Ask questions, but not too many! Questions should produce conversation. Conversing is where real relating happens.
2. Listen and be attentive. Don't be looking over your shoulder every five seconds at what's going on around you. It's rude!
3. Remember their name and use it. It's polite!
4. Be upfront. Ask, "What brings you to church today?" After all, you know and they know that they are standing inside your church...for the first time! So let's not be coy. Talk about it. Being up front about this will actually help everyone relax.
5. Be helpful if you can. People often go to church to seek something. It could be friendship, a spiritual home, connections and networks. For example, a young couple recently came to our church who had just moved to Geelong and I discovered the young man was a new graduate teacher looking for work. So I introduced him to my husband who is a teacher who was able to help him get his CV around local schools. They now attend our church.
6. Hook them up with others (no I don't mean in a romantic way). If they're young adults, introduce them to other young adults. If they're a family, introduce them to another family. I believe this is critical to good welcoming. Multiplying the links and broadening the community for new people is gold.
7. Reconnect with them soon afterwards. Try to say good-bye before they leave and that you hope to see them next week. When they return, connect again! Genuine relationships.
8. Invite them over for a meal. If the conversation is flowing and you feel comfortable about it, invite them to share a meal with you and your family/friends. Newcomers or welcome café nights are also great ways to develop a sense of belonging to the church family. After all, families occasionally get together to share food to maintain the bonds of love.
9. If they give you a phone number, call them! It doesn't have to be a long conversation, but if you said you'd call, then CALL! Even if you didn't say you'd call, still CALL!
10. Pray. Our church welcome team always arrive half an hour before the church service to pray. We ask God to send new people to our church and to help us (and our church family) to love and warmly welcome everyone.

Welcoming is about the Gospel. It is about imitating God.

Our ministries

This section to be completed in the future for our new members manual. If you've made it through the Members Course and are looking for more to do – why not have a go at listing our ministries here for yourself!

Our link missionaries

This section to be completed in the future for our new members manual. If you've made it through the Members Course and are looking for more to do – why not have a go at listing our ministries here for yourself!

Other partner organisations

This section to be completed in the future for our new members manual. If you've made it through the Members Course and are looking for more to do – why not have a go at listing our ministries here for yourself!

Colossians 1:9-13 – Our Prayer

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

