



**ONE
ANOTHER**

TERM 1 BIBLE STUDY BOOK

ST LUKE'S 2020 VISION

Imagine a church:

Where delight in God
overflows into all of life

Where enduring truth
inspires courageous witness
and a heart for the nations

Where the lost surrender
to the mercy of Christ

Where a hunger to
know, love & serve Christ
renews every season

Where the broken find
a family and the outsider
is embraced

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 1 2020

One Another

Week commencing		Reading Plan	Page Number
<i>3rd February</i>	United to One Another	Romans 12:1-8 John 17:20-26	5
<i>10th February</i>	Devoted to One Another	John 13:1-17 Romans 12:9-21	10
<i>17th February</i>	Redeemed to Serve One Another	Galatians 5:1-15	14
<i>24th February</i>	Called to Build One Another	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 Romans 14:13-21	19
<i>2nd March</i>	Open Hearts to Welcome One Another	1 Peter 4:1-9	24

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One Another

Intro

As we start 2020 together, we are going to spend five weeks looking at a series of 'one another' statements in the New Testament. The 'one anothers' of the scriptures speak into the various relationships that we find ourselves in as we follow Jesus, and in particular the relationships that we find ourselves in with the church family. The phrase 'one another' has rich usage in the New Testament, occurring 100 times and being used in all but five books of the New Testament (1 & 2 Timothy, Philemon, 3 John and Jude). From the lips of Jesus we hear these words:

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love for one another"
(John 13:35)

And with these words Jesus establishes a new ethic for his disciples with the desire to see the world impacted by their witness to Christ. While the focus of these 'one another' verses is primarily on the relationships between those who follow Jesus, as we will see the goal of this is our faithful witness to the world.

Through this series, we will be encouraged to treat others with love, care, compassion, hospitality and much more, so that together St Luke's continues to grow in our faithful witness to Miranda and beyond.

* The Bible studies in this series will be done in the week **following** the Sunday sermon. The hope is that as we discuss the different passages and ideas together, there will be great opportunity for tangible and well-developed application each week in your Bible study group grounding the sermon and the study in the life of St Luke's and the members of your group.

Study 1:

United to One Another

Introduction – Talk

Read the following verses and discuss this question for each one:

What impact does it have on your relationships with others – in your family, in your friendship groups, at church – if you lived in the way the verse describes?

- **Romans 12:16** – “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”
- **Ephesians 4:32** – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15** – “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other (one another) and to everyone else.”
- **John 6:43** – “Don’t grumble among one another”

Sermon Reflection

Do you have any questions, comments, reflections from the sermon on Sunday?

Read Romans 12:1-8 (note that in the NIV, v.5 “all the others” = “one another”)

- 1) What initial thoughts, questions comments arise from the passage?

- 2) Paul begins chapter 12 with a very important ‘therefore’. In the following verses Paul will give a series of commands about the kind of life the person who trusts Jesus is to live, but what stands behind everything that Paul is going to say? (read chapter 11 verses 33-36)

- 3) In verses 2-3 of chapter 12, twice Paul structures sentences with a “Do not...” followed by “but...”
 - a. What are the things that Paul says Christians are not to do in light of the mercy of God? What are Christians to do in response to the mercy of God?

 - b. How does this begin to reshape how we think about our place within the church and our relationship to the world?

4) Paul calls on those who belong to Jesus to see that they belong to one another. Paul uses the image of the church as a body to illustrate his point.

a. What does Paul say are the implications of seeing the church as one body for how we view our skills/gifts/abilities?

b. Are there examples where you have seen people have the mindset of using the gifts/skills/abilities for the good of the whole? How have you benefited from others using their gifts/skills/abilities in this way?

c. How might thinking in this way, that as people who are united to Jesus we are also united to one another, shape the way that we interact with each other when it comes to:

- Conflict

- Celebrations

- Grieving

- Serving

- Our abilities/money/time

A lot of what we have spoken about so far talks about the relationships within the church, and rightly so. It is those who have faith in Jesus who are united to one another. However, it is not simply unity for unity sake. There is a very significant missional edge to the idea of being united to one another.

Read John 17:20-26

- 5) While loving and belonging to one another is the foundation for the relationships within the church, what is the missional aspect to the way that Christians relate to each other?

Nothing is able to unite people from such diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, socio-economic standards, cultures and more, than the gospel. The gospel is the thing that breaks down all barriers and walls between people in a way that nothing else can.

- 6) How do you think that Christians being united to one another can help people see Jesus?

Application

- 7) How might we need to change/alter our thinking around what we have as individuals to be the type of people that Paul describes here in Romans 12?

8) What are some examples of how understanding ourselves as united to one another in Christ would help us reach out into Miranda with the news of Jesus?

9) What are some ways that you might change/grow your relationships with those within the church for the sake of the mission to the world?

Prayers

Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Pray for Brett as he serves us as our Senior Minister; leading and teaching St Luke's. Pray for Brett as Focus Pastor of 10am Church.

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra, Joanna and Samuel Thomas and their mission work with OMF International to an unreached people group in South East Asia.

Pray for our Church Wardens: Colin Adams, Colin Contessa and Joel Garlato. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Laurie Davidson, Amanda Garlato, Elise Adams, Nathan Pollock, Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer) and Kath Telfer. Pray for our Parish Nominators: Michael Easton, David Francis, Amanda Garlato, Louise Parkes, and Lloyd Zietsch. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

Pray for the Christianity Explored course running on 3rd, 10th and 17th February.

Study 2:

Devoted to One Another

Introduction – Talk

It is often hard to talk about humility without appearing proud about being humble. However, share amongst the group if there are particular people who encourage you because of their humility.

Read the following verses:

- **Philippians 2:3** – “Regard one another as more important than yourselves”
- **Ephesians 5:21** – “Be subject to one another”
- **1 Peter 5:5** – “Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another”

Initially, how might the way of thinking that these brief verses describe, come into conflict with the way that the world wants us to think about our relationships with others?

Sermon Reflection

Do you have any questions, comments, reflections from the sermon on Sunday?

Read John 13:1-17

- 1) In the opening verses we are twice told “Jesus knew...”
What are the two things that Jesus knew to set up these events?

- 2) How would have the actions of Jesus through verses 1-5 shocked the disciples? Are they shocking to you?

- 3) Peter significantly misunderstands what Jesus is doing.
 - a. What is Peter's complaint?

 - b. How does Jesus shape the disciples understanding of what he is doing?

Application

- 4) What are some examples of tasks or actions that we may consider below us – the “foot washing” of our day? How might the example of Jesus shape how we approach such situations?

Read Romans 12:9-21

This passage continues from where we left off last week. Recap the things that Paul had said in the opening eight verses of chapter 12.

- 5) In these verses Paul lists a number of ways that we may think about and treat one another. Are there any things that Paul says here that stand out to you? Why?

a. Make a list of all the things that Paul says that people who follow Jesus are to do.

b. Make a second list of the 'do not's'.

c. As you read through each of these lists, what themes/trends do you notice?

Here we see Paul painting a picture of the type of community that follows the example of Jesus. For all that Paul says here, we are given a picture of what being devoted to one another in love looks like.

- d. Of all the things that Paul writes in these verses, what are the ones that you find hardest to live out in relationship with others?

Application

- 6) Self-sacrificial love and service is one of the marks of the Christian community. As people who follow the way of Jesus, what are some ways that you can consider others more important than yourself and be devoted to one another in 2020?

Prayers

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as Focus Pastor of the 8am congregation, helper to Brett at the 10am Service and as Pastoral Care Minister for St Luke's. Pray for Jennie's Pastoral Care ministries, especially in her work in visitation and Bible Study in our local retirement villages.

Pray for Shane and Ruth, Kye, Joel, and Finn Sparks and their mission work making disciples in Gijon, Spain.

Pray that the word of God we heard on Sunday might shape how we live during the week. Pray that we would be respectful of workplace boundaries, but that we'd also *"be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have"* (1 Peter 3:15). Thank God that we have the opportunity to represent Christ in how we speak and act in the workplace.

Pray for Miranda North's Big Day In on Sunday 16th February.

Study 3:

Redeemed to Serve One Another

Introduction – Talk

Most people want their lives to mean something, to be part of something larger than just themselves, to have left a mark by the days that we have lived. One way to come at this, is to simply ask the question – “at the end of your life what is going to matter most to you?”

At the end of your life, how would you hope that people would finish this sentence?

“The most important thing I know about their life was...”

For most of us, it will be less about the stuff that we have and far more about the people that surround us.

Sermon Reflection

Do you have any questions, comments, reflections from the sermon on Sunday?

Read Galatians 5:1-15

- 1) What initial thoughts, questions, comments arise from the passage?

2) The situation seems to be that there are some people in Galatia, who were trying to draw those who trusted Jesus, to fulfil the Old Testament Jewish traditions. They were attempting to persuade Gentiles (non-Jews), who had come to trust Jesus, that they needed not only to have faith in Jesus for their salvation but also to fulfil the Old Testament Jewish customs as well.

a) The language of 'freedom' and being 'set free' alludes to the idea of being redeemed from something. It's the idea of being moved from one state of existing and finding yourself in a new way of being. What does Paul say that those that follow Jesus have been redeemed from?

b) Initially, Paul says that they will 'again' be put under a 'yoke of slavery'. For the Christians in Galatia, who would have been predominantly Gentiles, how can they be put under a yoke of slavery again when they had never been under the law of the Jews?

c) Why do you think doing Old Testament things, for those who had heard the gospel and started to follow Jesus, might have been tempting?

3) Paul says that returning to Old Testament Jewish traditions and customs would undermine their faith in Jesus. Why might Paul have such strong words to say about this?

4) Are there any similarities that we might be tempted by today? What are the things that we may be tempted to find our confidence in rather than through faith in Jesus?

If first Paul paints the negative picture, in verses 13 & 14 we see the positive picture. Paul says that we haven't simply been saved from something. Of far more importance is for what we have been redeemed.

Re-read verse 1 & verses 13-14.

5) The common theme here is that freedom, or redemption, is both the means and the goal of the Christian life. If the gospel is about anything, then it is all about redemption. Reflecting on your own understanding of the gospel, how often would you view life following Jesus as freedom? Why/why not is that something that you consider often?

- 6) Paul has both a warning and a command in verses 13-14.
- a) Speaking to those who have been redeemed in Christ, what does Paul warn us against using the freedom we now have?

- b) For what is our redemption and freedom we find in Christ to be used?

Application

- 7) In what areas of the life of St Luke's do you see this happening?

- 8) In what areas of the life of St Luke's are you involved in serving others?

Imagine a church, where everyone was using their gifts in service of one another (this takes us back to study one where we saw that in Christ we are united to one another and so what we have now belongs to each other) out of an expression of the freedom that they have in Christ. What would that kind of place be like?

What are some ways that either you individually or as a group may be able to serve someone else?

Prayers

Pray for Tim and Shona, Annika, Hamish, Edward and Hugo Goldsmith. Pray for Tim as Focus Pastor for the Miranda North and Church at Five congregations. Pray for Tim as he heads up our Local Mission profile for St Luke's and focuses on outreach and evangelism.

Pray for John-Francis and Anup Wallace. Pray for John-Francis as Pastor of Shalom Calvary Church. Pray for the Wallaces and their local mission work in Indore, North India.

Pray for English as a Second Language classes each Friday during school term. Give thanks for Marina and her team as they teach and encourage those who come along. Pray for the end of term Easy English Service, that people would attend and understand the Bible and Jesus' saving grace.

Pray for the Young Adults weekend away on 21st-23rd February at Youthworks Waterslea.

Study 4:

Called to Build One Another

Introduction – Talk

When was the last time someone really encouraged you?

When was the last time you encouraged someone **and** they encouraged you (mutual encouragement)?

Sermon Reflection

Do you have any questions, comments, reflections from the sermon on Sunday?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- 1) Here Paul seems to be addressing an issue that has arisen within the church in Thessalonica regarding those who have died trusting in Jesus. What is Paul's motive in addressing this issue?

- 2) In situations of great grief and loss, how can thinking about the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead give hope when things are difficult?

If you have time, read Hebrews 10:23-25

The author of Hebrews writes the whole letter as a word of encouragement. Here in chapter 10, the author is encouraging those to trust Jesus, and to keep pressing on even under the weight of persecution, because of what Jesus has done. In these verses we read three times “let us” and once “let us not...” What is the general impression that your group gets from each of these commands?

The final command is to “let us encourage one another” which comes as the correlation to not giving up meeting together. One of the primary ways of encouraging one another is to simply turn up and meet together regularly. What are some things that may get in the way of you meeting regularly with the people of God?

What can you do in 2020 to meet more regularly with the people of God this year?

Application

As we think about the life of St Luke’s, what are some ways that you can build up others in 2020?

How might an attitude of wanting to live at peace and pursuing mutual edification influence your relationships, and indeed conflicts, this year?

Who are some people who you know, who you think may need some encouragement?

Prayers

Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy, Lois and Finn Morton. Pray for Sam as Focus Pastor of Night Church. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry at St Luke's – coordinating our youth groups on Friday nights and high school Scripture in our local schools. Pray for Sam as he also heads up Young Adults ministry and Young Adults Bible Studies.

Pray for Andrew and Adele, Isaac, Lucy and Finn Southerton and their church plant in Wellington, City on a Hill, New Zealand.

Thank God for his loving provision in drawing us to him and making us his children and heirs. Pray for members of our families and those close to us who do not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for both wisdom and boldness in how to share the good news we have with those who are nearest and dearest to us.

Study 5:

Open Hearts to Welcome One Another

Introduction

How would you define hospitality?

Have you ever experienced what you would consider radical hospitality? What made it special?

Sermon Reflection

Do you have any questions, comments, reflections from the sermon on Sunday?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-9

- 1) What initial thoughts, questions comments arise from the passage?

Through this section Peter wants to shift the thinking of his readers in regard to both their willingness to suffer for what is right and, also, in how they live for God in the here and now. We will focus on verses 7-9 and on how we live in light of what Jesus has done.

- 2) Peter lists a few things in these verses that all go together. What are some of the things that Peter says those who follow Jesus should give themselves to because the end of all things is near?

- 3) The picture that we are seeing here is a picture of the type of life that the Christian person lives. When we combine deep love for others, hospitality and serving one another, how might our view and experience of 'hospitality' enlarge beyond where you started with the opening question?

- 4) Peter qualifies hospitality by saying that it is to be done "without grumbling". Why might we be tempted to grumble when being hospitable to one another? Why do you think it is Peter's desire that we offer hospitality to one another "without grumbling"?

- 5) Peter concludes this section by saying that all of this, whether our offering of hospitality or our using of our gifts, is to be done to bring glory to God. How does our hospitality actually bring glory to God?

Application

- 6) How might that encourage us to be more purposeful in using our homes and/or resources to show hospitality to others?

7) Does hospitality require a home? What are some ways that we can show hospitality in ways other than using a home?

In the end, being an hospitable people is far more about an attitude of the heart than anything else. It is where everything that we have looked at in this series leads us. When we know that we are united to one another in Christ, when we humbly think more highly of others than ourselves, when we use our gifts to serve others and when we seek to lift one another up, we will naturally be an hospitable people, showing kindness and love to others.

8) What are some ways that you can be hospitable in the following environments that you may find yourself?

- Workplace
- Study
- Sports team
- Home
- Family
- Shared living community
- Church service/community
- Local neighbourhood

Series Wrap

As we wrap up this five-week series looking at some of the 'one-another' passages from the New Testament, in what three ways can you change or shape your attitude to others within the church in 2020 so that St Luke's continues to grow into a church that cares deeply about one another?

Prayers

Pray for Cam, Katrina and Peyton Harte. Pray for Cam as he heads up Children's Ministry, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, Alive (lunch-time Christian group at Miranda North Public School), Children's Thursday night programs, and Breakfast Club.

Pray for our upcoming AGM, for the people standing and those who will be elected.

Pray for John & Jodi Lovell, with Gemma, Amber, Zoe, Jasmine, Claudia and Elias, who are with us this week. Pray for the family as they settle back into Sydney after serving in Valencia Spain. Pray for John as he takes up his new role of General Secretary of CMS NSW & ACT.

Pray for our ongoing and various Children's, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries; that God would be using the leaders and volunteers to sow seeds and help people grow into mature and loving relationships with Jesus. Pray that this would be a great witness to the wider community.

Pray that St Luke's as a community would be a welcoming family to the new person who walks through our doors, as well as the person who's been walking through our doors for many years. Pray that God would help us to love the people as he first loved us. Give St Luke's a spirit of hospitality, care and inclusivity.