



Bible Study Book –Term 2 2019

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 2 2019

Week commencing		Reading Plan	Page Number
<i>6th May</i>	1. True Spirituality lays down one's rights for another	1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27	6
<i>13th May</i>	2. True Spirituality embraces men and women	1 Corinthians 11:2-16	11
<i>20th May</i>	3. True Spirituality gathers and shares around Jesus	1 Corinthians 11:17-34	16
<i>27th May</i>	4. True Spirituality builds up the body	1 Corinthians 12:1-31	22
<i>3rd June</i>	5. True Spirituality prioritises love over gifts	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	26
<i>10th June</i>	6. True Spirituality pursues edification and order	1 Corinthians 14:1-40	30
<i>17th June</i>	7. True Spirituality believes in a physical future	1 Corinthians 15:1-58	35
<i>24th June</i>	8. True Spirituality gives generously to gospel needs	1 Corinthians 16:1-24	40

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 St Luke's Anglican Church, Miranda

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

True Spirituality - 1 Corinthians

Corinth

Corinth was a major city in the ancient Mediterranean world. Ideally located on a narrow piece of land between Peloponnesus and mainland Greece, it was known as “the master of two harbors.”

Brian Rosner writes, “*Roman Corinth was prosperous, cosmopolitan, and religiously pluralistic, accustomed to visits by impressive, travelling speakers and obsessed with status, self-promotion, and personal rights.*”¹ Corinth became famous for luxury and immorality. It boasted a temple to Aphrodite, which had 1000 priestess-prostitutes, and to “Corinthianise” became a saying for the profligate life.

The church in Corinth

In Acts 18 we read about the beginnings of the church in Corinth. With Priscilla and Aquila, Paul reportedly spent a year and a half ministering to this new community. But two or three years after leaving this church, he is forced to respond to disturbing reports. It seems that the Corinthians boasted about being very “spiritual”, though sought it in all the wrong places. They had become captivated by wisdom, knowledge and power,² and looked down on Paul’s ministry and the message of the cross.

Corinthian buzzwords	
Spiritual	2:13, 14, 15; 3:1; 9:11; 10:3-4; 12:1; 14:1; 12:1; 14:1, 37; 15:44, 46
Wisdom	1:17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 30; 2:1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13; 3:19; 12:8
Knowledge	1:5; 8:1, 7, 10, 11; 12:8; 13:2, 8; 14:6
Power	1:18, 24; 2:4-5; 4:19, 20; 5:4; 6:14; 12:20; 15:24, 46, 56

Furthermore, the Corinthians had adopted much of moral licentiousness of the surrounding culture. They were sexually loose, obsessed with wealth, status, power and treated fellow Christians terribly. In fact, at one point in his letter, Paul notes such was the immorality of the Corinthians that it surpassed those outside the church. In the first half of the letter (chapters 1-7), Paul has laid down the foundation for what is truly spiritual. He writes, “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who*

¹ Roy E. Ciampa & Brian S. Rosner *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2010

² Used with permission Vaughan Roberts *True Spirituality*, Inter-varsity Press: Norton Street, Nottingham, 2011

*are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*³ Against factionalism, loose morality, and grasping for power Paul's answer to the Corinthian's warped spirituality is always the cross of Christ. A theme which is repeated throughout the rest of the book.

1 Corinthians 8-16 and Us

Christian Lander in his book "Stuff White People Like"⁴ satirically lists things that stereotypically people like us tend to value. Behind coffee in first place is "Religions their parents don't belong to." Lander observantly writes:

"White people will often say they are "spiritual" but not religious. Which usually means that they will believe any religion that doesn't involve Jesus.

Popular choices include Buddhism, Hinduism, Kabbalah and, to a lesser extent, Scientology. A few even dip into Islam, but it's much more rare since you have to give stuff up and actually go to a Mosque. Mostly they are into religion that fits really well into their homes or wardrobe and doesn't require them to do very much."

Just like the Corinthians, our society still has an innate interest in spirituality. But just like those in Corinth, it is often sought in all the wrong places. Our goal, just like it was for Paul, is to show our friends, family and world, what it means to be truly spiritual. That it is not found separated from Jesus or from the church, but found through relationship with our Lord and his redeemed people.

³ 1 Corinthians 1:18

⁴ Christian Lander *Stuff White People Like: A definitive Guide to the Unique Tastes of Millions*

Study 1 – True Spirituality

Lays down one's rights for another
1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

Discuss

Complete this sentence: To me freedom is...

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

2) What reasons do the Corinthians Christians use to justify eating food offered to idols (8:1-6)? Does Paul agree with the Corinthians? How does he qualify his response to them?

3) What other factor does this church need to consider concerning the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols (8:7-12)? What are the consequences of ignoring this consideration?

4) What are some current day examples of things that we do that could make another Christian stumble? What preferences, freedoms and rights do we cherish and find ourselves reluctant to let go of for the good of others?

5) Work through the following scenarios with your group.

- A member in your Bible Study has previously shared with you they are a recovering alcoholic. Next week your group is having a social dinner, where you know there will be beers and wines. Should you say anything?

- Fred is planning to organise a blokes console gaming night with his friends. He finds out that Ron struggles with gaming addiction and has decided not to play any video or computer games anymore. What could Fred do?
- Having read about inhumane practices in farming, Leah decides to go vegan. You think it is really stupid and over the top. Does Leah need to grow up?
- Everyone at church is talking about a new series on Netflix. You don't watch it because it has too much sex and crude jokes and you struggle with lust. Should you tell your friends at church that it bothers you?
- You notice after church your kids playing on their Iphones and enjoying sharing what new apps they have. You know one of their friends Felicity comes from a poorer family and finds it hard to be content. What could you do to help?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

6) What rights was/were Paul entitled to? (9:1-12)?

7) Why doesn't Paul make use of his rights (9:12-18)? What does the gospel have to do with it?

8) What is Paul's evangelistic strategy (9:19-23)? What is his hope will happen?

9) What analogy does Paul use in 9:24-27 to depict the Christian life? What does winning the prize stand for?

10) How can we become “all things to all men” in order that by all possible means we might save some? What costly decisions might you need to make for the sake of the lost in your life?

Prayers

Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Pray for Brett as Focus Pastor for 10am. Pray for Brett as he takes on his new role and serves us as Senior Minister.

Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra and Joanna 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 Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to events at church. Pray that God would be preparing the heart of people we could invite to an upcoming event

Pray for the Men’s Retreat happening on 10th & 11th May as Brett Middleton Speaks on being ‘Whole-Hearted’.

Study 2 – True Spirituality
Embraces men and women
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Discuss

Why do you think “gender” is such a sensitive and hot topic?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Read 1 Corinthians 11:3-10, Ephesians 5:22-32 & Colossians 1:15-20

2) What does Paul say about Christ being the head? Why is this good news for men and women?

3) What practically do you think it means for the “men to be the head of the women”? What doesn’t it mean?

4) Why did the women in Corinth need something covering their heads? Why did the Corinthian men ought not to cover their heads?

**5) Make a list of ways husbands can better sacrificially serve their wives as head.
Make a list of ways wives can healthily submit to their husbands**

6) In verse 11-12, what is the picture used to describe the relationship between men and women? How should this shape the gathering of God's people?

7) How would these radical words about women be both empowering and scandalous for their day? How does this passage encourage women to serve in the church community today?

8) How have women been abused by teaching on gender in the church? How have men been mistreated by teaching of gender in the church?

9) Should views on manhood and womanhood cause a church to divide? How can there be healthy discussion on the matter?

10) How can St Luke's be a shining light in our care for men and women in and outside the church?

Prayers

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as Focus Pastor of the 8am congregation 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 with Pioneers making disciples in Gijon, Spain.

Pray for John and Jodi, Gemma, Amber, Zoe, Jasmine, Claudia and Elias Lovell. Pray for John as Pastor of Valencia Anglican Church and his work as the Regional Director for MOCLAM in Valencia, Spain.

Pray for our government including our Prime Minister, state & federal members, our Premier and our local government.

Pray for our witness to families that bring their children along to Thursday Children's groups, Kids' Clubs, and Friday Youth groups. Pray that church families would be given opportunities to befriend families who don't come to church, and that hearts may be softened to the gospel.

Study 3 – True Spirituality

Gathers and shares around Jesus

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Discuss

Do you think there is a right or wrong way to celebrate communion? Share some good and bad experiences of participating in the Lord's Supper at church.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

2) What is the situation that Paul describes in verses 17-21? Can you remember the solution to divisions and factions back in chapters 1-4?

3) In the Corinthian church, meals were contexts that showed disunity and inequality of the congregation.

a) What are the contexts at St Luke's where we are guilty of such sin?

b) How can acting as merely a consumer be destructive to church gatherings?

c) How could Christians view their wealth to aid fellowship?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

4) What are the key ingredients of the Lord's Supper? Do you think we should limit celebrating this meal to Sunday gatherings? Why or why not?

5) How are verses 23-26 the solution to the fractures in fellowship in verses 17-22?

6) When have you seen people included into the life of the church and when have you seen people excluded? How might these verses challenge our culture of welcoming and embracing others?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 11:27-34

7) What do you think Paul really means to “sin against the body and blood of the Lord”?

8) How are we to understand the 'judgement' mentioned in verses 31-34? What are the consequences for those who continue to live in disunity with a fellow brother or sister in Christ?

9) How might you reconcile with someone with whom you're currently not in fellowship?

10) How has this passage grown your view of the Christian fellowship? Share with the group one area of your life you've been challenged to change?

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 5 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 the Wallace's and their local mission work in Indore, North India.

Pray for those who serve to protect our country. Pray for health and safety for the service men and women and their Chaplains both here and overseas. Pray for their families waiting at home.

Pray for the wide range of outreach opportunities that we have with local schools. Pray that our scripture teachers would be diligent and loving as they teach classes. Pray that our school chaplains would effectively model Christ in the way they love and support the school community. Pray that our Kids Hope mentors would be a loving and stable relationship for children with social needs. Pray that School Lunch program leaders will be bold in their example and witness to their school communities. Pray for the volunteers running Breakfast Club at Miranda Public and Port Hacking High School.

Study 4 – True Spirituality

Builds up the Body
1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Discuss

What do you think defines a spiritual person? Have you ever been made to feel spiritually inferior by another?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

2) In verse 1, Paul refers to matters of the Spirit. What do you think was happening for their spirituality to be equated with idolatry?

3) According to verse 3, what is the test of true spirituality? How might a church hold the bar too high or too low?

4) Verses 4-11 & 28-30 describe a list of gifts. Often, the supernatural gifts are given too much attention in a context or, in other places, far too little. Yet we must not miss Paul's primary teaching on gifts (literally grace)

a) Who gave the gifts?

b) Who receives the gifts?

c) What is the purpose of gifts?

d) Share with each other what gifts God has given you? How are you using it to serve others?

e) In what ways do we promote or exult some gifts over others?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

(If your group likes creativity, get them to have a go of drawing this picture of the body)

5) Why is the image of a body helpful for the “spiritual” Corinthians?

6) What would Paul say to those who think they do not need others? What would Paul say to those who think they aren't needed. Why do we need one another?

7) What body part do you think you are? Do you honour yourself too much or too little?

8) How do you build up the body at St Luke's? How are you feeling about the ministries you are serving in? Spend some time praying for one another.

Prayers

Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy and Lois 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 unborn baby Morton due anytime now.

Pray for Eloise Bull, our Youth Assistant that she may have energy and enthusiasm in supporting Sam and preparing for The Great Escape.

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

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

Pray for our witness to our local community – especially as more units are developed and more people move into the area. Pray for opportunities to connect with our community.

Study 5 – True Spirituality

Prioritises Love over Gifts

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Discuss

Divide your Bible study in two. Have a competition to write down as many songs that mention the word love (2 minute time limit)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

2) From what we've learned in the last few chapters of 1 Corinthians, what does the church in Corinth value too much?

3) In verses 1-3, what does Paul want the church to realise?

4) Paul suggests the way they were using their talents makes them useless. What gifts do you use to serve the Church? How can the way we use our talents put us in danger of them being “nothing”?

5) Our culture has different ideas about what love is and what sort of behaviour it should produce. What are they? What does love mean in this chapter (vv. 4-8)?

6) Re-read the description of love in verses 4-7? What characteristic are you best at showing? Which do you struggle to show?

7) In verse 9-13, Paul looks to the future. Why is it important to practice love now?

8) Paul uses two metaphors to illustrate the differences between the ages. What does each one tell us?

9) How well do you live knowing that there is so much more to come? What are some practical steps that you can put in place to remind you that life as it is will pass away?

10) How have you been challenged in the way you use your gifts? How can you work to be more loving and less selfish as you use them?

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), Homework Club, Children's Thursday night programs, Breakfast Club and Kids' Clubs.

Pray for Sarah Prabhakar and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

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 the word of God we heard on Sunday might shape how we live Monday to Friday. 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.

Study 6 – True Spirituality
Pursues edification and order
1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Discuss

What are your feelings towards prophecy and tongues? Share some experiences where you saw these gifts used negatively or positively?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

2) How does chapter 13 shape what Paul is about to say concerning prophecy? Why is love central to using any gift?

3) In verses 1-5, according to Paul, prophecy is a greater gift than speaking in tongues. Why?

4) What do you think prophecy is? What is the difference between prophecy in the Old Testament and prophecy in this passage?

5) How should the gift of prophecy be exercised in the church today?

6) What are Paul's concerns about speaking in tongues? Is there a place for the gift of tongues at St Luke's? Why or why not?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

7) In verses 26-33, what is the process to share a teaching, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation? How shouldn't the Corinthians be sharing in this context?

8) What is the relationship between God's word and this process of prophesying?

9) In chapter 11, we have already been told that women are able to prophesy and pray in the church.

a) What, then, seems to be the problem in verses 34-36?

b) Do you think Paul's command here is sexist? What actually is Paul's main concern here?

c) How should we be encouraging women to use their gifts at St Luke's?

10) Have your feelings changed towards prophecy and tongues? If so, how?

Prayers

Pray for our Student Ministers Russ Denten, Amani Kazogolo and Isaac Shumack as they join us on Sundays while studying at Moore College during the week.

Pray for Geoff and Liz, Johanna, Will, Tom and Zoe Robson and their work with Christian Union in Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Pray for Rob and Jo, Lili, and Jemma Copland. Pray for Rob's work as the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Wollongong and for his work as Campus Director of the University Bible Group.

Pray for peace and wise leadership in our world. Pray that there would be opportunities for Christians to share the love, peace and saving grace that Jesus offers to all.

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.

Study 7 – True Spirituality
Believes in a physical future
1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Discuss

Share with the group your favourite ending to a story or movie. What would happen if the ending was cut out?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

2) What is Paul's summary of the gospel? (vv. 1-7)

3) The first letter to the Corinthians is full of Paul addressing concerns within the Corinthian church. What do you think he is addressing here? (vv. 12-19)

4) Why does Paul talk about Christ as the first fruits? (v.20)

5) Do we overemphasise or underemphasise one part of the gospel message? How can we fix that imbalance?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

6) Paul dedicates a significant section to the question of the resurrection body. Why is this so important for him? What types of bodies will we have?

7) What do the Corinthians have to look forward to? (vv.51-57)

8) What are these Christians called to do in verse 58? How are they to do it?

9) What pressures, temptations, forces often feel like they are pushing you away from Jesus? How can you give of yourself more to the “work of the Lord”?

10) Consider the following situations. What could you say:

- **A friend from work has recently lost their wife to cancer. They tell you that they feel life is hopeless now.**

- **One of your children/grandchildren tell you they think they become angels when they die.**

- **A person in your Bible study suggests they can use and abuse their body however they like because they’ll get a new one when Jesus returns**

Prayers

Pray for Sharyn as Office Administrator and Eddie as assistant bookkeeper.

Pray for David, Kathryn and Reuben Luis. Pray for David as Campus Director of Geelong Christian Union at the Deakin University Campus in Victoria.

Pray for Miranda North; that there would be many opportunities to connect with the local community through school and other activities.

Pray for the everyday outreach that the church has through ministries such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. For those who are involved and for those who attend who don't yet know Jesus as Lord. Pray that the staff would be wise in their presentation of the gospel, that they would be thoughtful in their interactions with people and that they would be eager to make the most of every opportunity to speak of Christ the King.

Study 8 – True Spirituality

Gives generously to gospel need
1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Discuss

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being very stingy, 10 being exceedingly generous), how generous do you think you are? Try to give a reason for the number you chose.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

1) What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 16:1-12

2) Have a look at the following passages and try to establish a context for what Paul is doing: Acts 24:17-18; 2 Corinthians 8:1-6; 9:12-15

- 3) What kind of giving is being addressed in this passage? Who is it to and from, and what does this express?**
- 4) How might these practical instructions for giving to the poor translate into our situation?**
- 5) Paul anticipates sharing with them in the Lord's work, as so to his co-worker Timothy (vv. 5-11). What are some practical ways that we can partner with those who have been set aside and sent in gospel service? How can we send people on their way well?**

Investigate and apply 1 Corinthians 16:13-18

6) Why do you think there is a strange mix of warm greetings and strong warnings in these last verses?

7) Reread verses 13 & 14. How do these exhortations speak to many of the problems in the church of Corinth? How do they speak to any of the challenges facing St Luke's?

8) The final verses of letters can sometimes be overlooked and we miss significant snapshots of gospel centred living. What characterises these models of faith? If we were to recognise these kind of people among us, who would they be and why?

9) What do you think happened to the church in Corinth after they received the letter?

10) Share a couple of ways that the Lord has taught you, encouraged you and challenged you through our study of 1 Corinthians.

Prayers

Pray for Lisa and Gabby as office assistants.

Pray for both Peter, Katharine, Noah and Atticus Yock as they work amongst the students at the campus of Griffith University.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

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.

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