

# Service Plan – Sunday 22 August 2021

- This service is designed for use in a small group setting, so will function differently with only 1 or 2 people. Feel free to adapt it to suit.
- It will be helpful if one person leads the gathering, and introduces each section using the suggested words, or take turns! There are some things to say together as well (in bold).
- You can access the songs and sermon by clicking on the links where they are found in the outline.

## **Introduction**

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another to love and good deeds.

Hebrews 12:1-2 says:

*“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith.”*

## **Optional Song**

We Belong to the Day - [Link](#)

## **Optional Kid’s Song**

Jesus is the King - [Link](#)

## **Optional Kid’s Video** (approx. 4 minutes)

Living God’s Way (Part 1 - Storing up treasures) - [Overview with discussion Q’s](#)

Quiz Worx Video - [Link](#)

Kids’ Activity sheets are here: [Ages 2-4](#) | [Ages 5-8](#) | [Ages 9-12](#)

## **The Creed**

Let’s affirm with Christians across the world and through the ages what we believe about God and his love for us:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## ***Bible Readings***

The following, or another prayer may be said before the Bible readings

Gracious God,  
your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.  
Today, when we hear your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart.  
Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in your way,  
for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **1 Kings 22:13-28**

<sup>13</sup> The messenger who went to call Micaiah instructed him, “Look, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable for the king. So let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably.”

<sup>14</sup> But Micaiah said, “As the LORD lives, I will say whatever the LORD says to me.”

<sup>15</sup> So he went to the king, and the king asked him, “Micaiah, should we go to Ramoth-gilead for war, or should we refrain?”

Micaiah told him, “March up and succeed. The LORD will hand it over to the king.”

<sup>16</sup> But the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of the LORD?”

<sup>17</sup> So Micaiah said:

I saw all Israel scattered on the hills  
like sheep without a shepherd.

And the LORD said,

“They have no master;

let everyone return home in peace.”

<sup>18</sup> So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?”

<sup>19</sup> Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ So one was saying this and another was saying that.

<sup>21</sup> “Then a spirit came forward, stood in the LORD’s presence, and said, ‘I will entice him.’

<sup>22</sup> “The LORD asked him, ‘How?’

“He said, ‘I will go and become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’

“Then he said, ‘You will certainly entice him and prevail. Go and do that.’

<sup>23</sup> “You see, the LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah on the cheek, and demanded, “Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?”

<sup>25</sup> Micaiah replied, “You will soon see when you go to hide in an inner chamber on that day.”

<sup>26</sup> Then the king of Israel ordered, “Take Micaiah and return him to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the king’s son, <sup>27</sup> and say, ‘This is what the king says: Put this guy in prison and feed him only a little bread and water until I come back safely.’”

<sup>28</sup> But Micaiah said, “If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.” Then he said, “Listen, all you people!”

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**

<sup>13</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**5** About the times and the seasons: Brothers and sisters, you do not need anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When they say, “Peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the dark, for this day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not sleep, like the rest, but let us stay awake and be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled and put on the armor of faith and love, and a helmet of the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

## ***Sermon***

John Lavender - [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 - The Day of the Lord](#)

## ***Optional time for discussion or reflection***

### ***Confession***

Romans 3:23 tells us that “All of us have sinned and fall short of God’s glory”. Therefore, God calls us to confess our sins, to him and to one another, to turn away from our sin and turn to Christ to receive his mercy and grace. So, let’s pray this prayer of confession together:

**Heavenly Father,**

**we praise you for adopting us as your children  
and making us heirs of eternal life.**

**In your mercy you have washed us from our sins  
and made us clean in your sight.**

**Yet we still fail to love you and serve you as we should.**

**Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,  
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,  
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Merciful Father, we rejoice that you forgive those who truly repent and trust in your Son. Grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that we may live godly and obedient lives, and finally come to your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Prayer***

Father, thank you that you have promised to hear us when we pray, and that through your dear Son Jesus Christ you have taught us best how and what to pray. We come to you now in obedience to your word and trusting in your gracious promise. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ together with all the saints and Christians on earth as he has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Informal time of prayer or you could use some of the prayers below:**

Almighty God and merciful Father, we give you humble and heartfelt thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation and preservation, and all the blessings of this life. Above all, we thank you for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord, Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. May we always respond with thankful hearts, but especially so during this Thanksgiving Month.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ shared in earthly home life at Nazareth. Bless our homes we pray. We pray for our parents, that you'll give them wisdom, love and grace as they seek to wisely parent their children. May children respond with love obedience and may each home be blessed with peace and happiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of the nations, whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world. We especially pray today for Afghanistan as they deal with a complete break down of government, law and order. Banish from them the spirit that makes for war and disruption. Please give your people there a spirit of renewal, quiet determination and faith in your sovereignty and care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus, Prince of Peace, in a world of turmoil where hostility and hatred towards your people are increasing, where nobody knows what will happen next on a planet infected with coronavirus, we want to thank you for your peace, a peace the world cannot give. Please bless us with that peace and enable us to keep our hearts untroubled and unafraid. May our peace-filled lives, in an anxious world, bring glory and praise to Your name.

Father, we pray for teachers in our local state and private schools with daily changes and disruptions. Give them flexibility and determination to keep going, maintaining the best level of teaching in each school. We pray for those preparing for the HSC. Give them clear minds to study well in an uncertain situation.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the work of AFES on University campuses all over Australia. We particularly pray for Katie Balestri and the local team at Western Sydney University in Campbelltown, as well as those involved in this ministry at Wollongong Uni. May they prepare well for each interaction and contact, asking you for your blessing on all they seek to achieve for Your Kingdom.

Father, we commit ourselves to your love and grace as we go out into a new week. Amen.

## *Optional Song*

Come Lord Jesus - [Link](#)

## *Concluding Prayer*

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

## *What's Happening:*

Notices video - [Link](#)

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