

Sunday 2 November 2025



SERMON TOPIC: The Purpose of Church Discipleship  
BIBLE TEXT: Ezra 3  
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius  
ELDER ON DUTY: Jacob du Toit  
OFFERINGS:  
1st Collection: The work of the Church  
2nd Collection: The Candidacy Committee

---

## Loving people by listening - The Gospel Coalition

---

In the letter of James in the New Testament, God's word teaches that we are to be slow to speak and quick to listen (James 1:19). Sadly, many of us, perhaps most of us, are quick to speak and slow to listen. We are not good listeners and the problem is that most of us think we are!

I read somewhere of a definition of listening: It is when two people are talking and the first one stops to draw breath—that one is called "the listener"! Unfortunately, that is often how we listen.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer brings an alternative approach. In writing about the Christian and listening in his book *Life Together*, he says,

The first service one owes to others in the community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives us God's word, but also lends us God's ear. We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them. So often Christians, especially preachers, think that their only service is always to have to 'offer' something when they are together with other people. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking. Many people seek a sympathetic ear and do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking even when they should be listening.

[1]

Hugh Mackay writes that when we listen, it is an act of generosity. When we listen, we are being remarkably generous: we are offering the other person the gift of understanding; the gift of acceptance (even if not agreement); the gift of taking that other person seriously.[2]

So how can we be better listeners? There are some basic skills that we can use: non-verbal listening skills such as eye contact, smiling, nodding, leaning forward slightly, perhaps even not having our mobile phones in the vicinity!

We can also show we are listening using techniques like reflective listening and asking a few fact-finding questions.

The bottom line in all that we are doing in the ministry of pastoral care, whatever our context, is to love the people the Lord has given us. This springs from the exhortations as well as the model given to us in Scripture. Jesus teaches his disciples that they should love each other as he has loved them (Jn 13:34), Paul prays "that your love (love for God, love for others) may abound more and more" (Phil 1:9-11) and Peter writes "love one another deeply, from the heart" (1 Pet 1:22).

To cite Bonhoeffer again,

Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by him who is himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.[3]

~ written by Jenny Salt

---

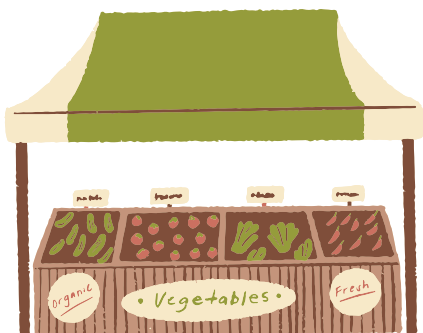
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## *Dining room mission* **HOW TO HELP**

The next Dining room mission is Tuesday 25 November .

If you would like to contribute with a cooked meal or pantry staples  
please contact Joy van Veen



An Organic Fruit and Veggie co op runs from our church hall every second Thursday. You are welcome to stop by to purchase fresh fruits and veggies.

Next date: 6 November  
9:30 - 12:30 & 16:00 - 18:00

# Church Calender

## WHAT IS HAPPENING

Tuesday 4 November 19:30 Prayer meeting  
Sunday 16 November 10:00 The Lord's Supper  
Saturday 22 November 08:30 Working Bee



# Calling all Working

22 November

We are planning a church clean up on 22 November and would greatly appreciate your willing hands.

08:30 - 13:00

Please register your attendance on planning centre with how many for catering purposes.

# WPCRC-YA TERM 4

## A look at Luke

**15**  
Oct

### Biblestudy

 70-72 Ennismore Crescent,  
Park Orchards

7:30-9:30PM

**29**  
Oct

### Biblestudy

 70-72 Ennismore Crescent,  
Park Orchards

7:30-9:30PM

**12**  
Nov

### Biblestudy

 70-72 Ennismore Crescent,  
Park Orchards

7:30-9:30PM

**26**  
Nov

### Biblestudy

 70-72 Ennismore Crescent,  
Park Orchards

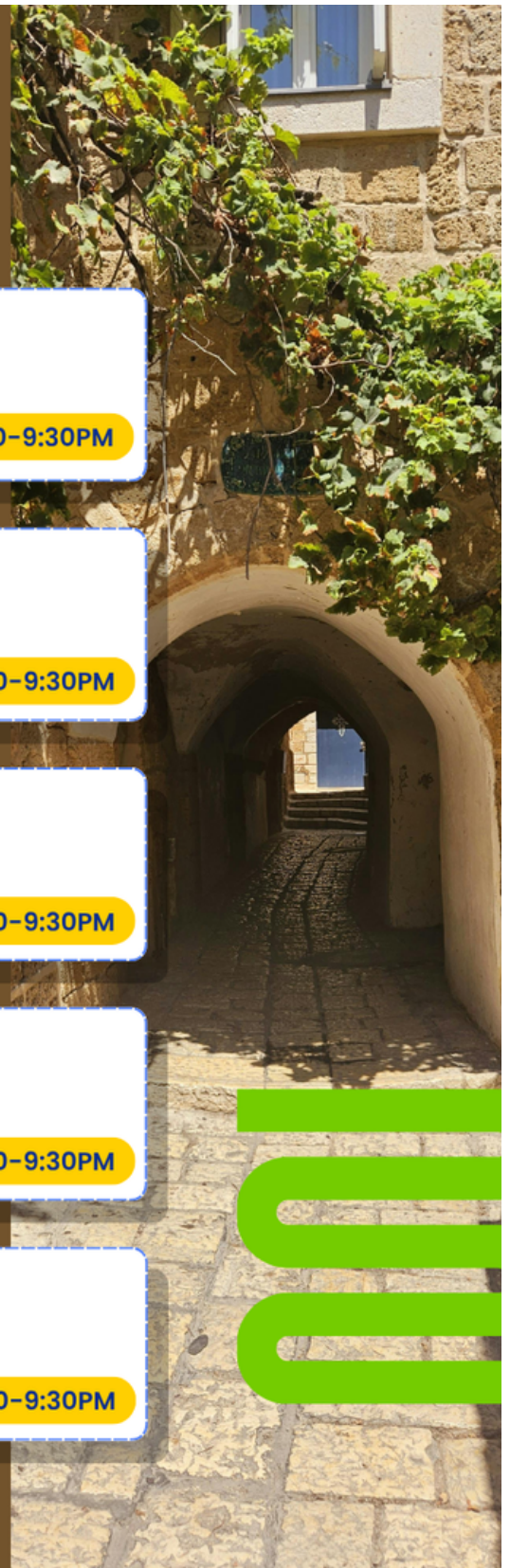
7:30-9:30PM

**10**  
Dec

### Biblestudy

 70-72 Ennismore Crescent,  
Park Orchards

7:30-9:30PM



# TERM 4 **2025**

# SUPERDASH

|                  |                                                                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>17</b><br>OCT | <b>Q&amp;A NIGHT</b><br>7: 30 PM @ PRETORIUS HOME                                      |
| <b>26</b><br>OCT | <b>STATE YOUTH SERVICE</b><br>5 PM @ ONE HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH                         |
| <b>31</b><br>OCT | <b>NO SUPERDASH</b><br>DUE TO MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY (4 <sup>TH</sup> OF NOV)           |
| <b>7</b><br>NOV  | <b>BIBLE STUDY: MARK</b><br>7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC                                  |
| <b>21</b><br>NOV | <b>BIBLE STUDY: MARK</b><br>7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC                                  |
| <b>5</b><br>DEC  | <b>SOCIAL: CHURCH SLEEPOVER</b><br>7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC TIL 6 <sup>TH</sup> 12 PM |

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

## Our Giving, an Act of Worship

---

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for the Candidacy Committee.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

---

### *This week's* **PRAYER POINTS**

*Don't pray when you feel like it.  
Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.*  
~ Corrie Ten Boom

---

### *Personal* **PRAYER POINTS**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

For strength and deep desire to apply the rules of love first and foremost to those who are nearest and dearest to us.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ESV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for showing us what it means to love sacrificially.

## Congregational PRAYER POINTS

Give praise and thanks to the Lord that Martin van der Merwe's gall bladder operation went well and that he is recovering at home.

Please continue to pray for all the young people facing exams in both secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

Please can we pray for Bryce Keegal who had a fall and is back in hospital.

## Local & Global PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for the Outlook Gardens aged care facility as they once again face a covid lockdown, pray that there won't be any serious consequences for the residents and staff.

Please pray for our governments as day by day we continue to witness mismanagement at many levels. Pray that he will move mightily so that the decision makers will seek to do what is right in his sight.

Please pray for the people of Jamaica after the devastation caused by the tornado, pray that this will also be used by him to bring many into his kingdom.

Please pray for all those caught up in the occult.

An ex-psychic who spent decades steeped in the occult is warning about the glorification of evil that often comes with the Halloween season, explaining the dangers of engaging in the Ouija board, tarot cards, and other tools of divination. "I am a former psychic, and I am noticing that ... tools of divination, such as the Ouija board, tarot cards, they are marketed more in the Halloween season," Nizza said. "Parties are having tarot card readers. You're seeing this in your Home Goods, your CVS.

Your kids are going to these stores – and they are glorifying tools of divination, making them seem fun and that it's no big deal." The former medium said it's hard not to see the connection between the prevalence of these tools and their increased usage and promotion around Halloween. "Interesting how it goes along with the Halloween season, isn't it?" she said. "There's something demonic there." Nizza specifically explained what divination encompasses, describing the practice as "going into creation to extract a hidden meaning about something, of information supernaturally outside of God's will and boundary."

This can include the aforementioned tarot cards, Ouija boards, or even looking to the stars, moon, or celestial bodies to try and discern wisdom and the future. Nizza, who has a popular YouTube channel and a podcast, "Ex-Psychic Saved," has routinely shared her experience encountering the demonic as a young girl and becoming a professional psychic.

"When I was 12, I actually had two psychic attacks," she said. "And a psychic attack, according to my own definition, is when you receive information psychically." Around that same time, Nizza had her first tarot card reading, which at first seemed "innocuous," though she now believes it's a "satanic practice" and a tool of divination that can lead people down dark and dangerous spiritual paths. That, sadly, was her exact experience.

"But what seemed innocuous ... ended up being an addictive, horrible rabbit hole of destruction," she said. "And that was the entryway. I always say there's a gateway or an entryway into the demonic, whether it's tarot cards, Ouija boards, horoscopes, what have you." Nizza found herself increasingly doing readings and exploring tools like divination, numerology, astrology, and other practices. "I used crystals for chakra balancing," she said. "I ended up doing automatic writing, and, ultimately, I ended up as a psychic medium, believing that I was hearing from deceased people who wanted to get their messages to their loved ones who were still living." Nizza continued, "I believed I was helping people.

I believed that this was a gift from God that I needed to use to help people who were suffering." She said one of the facets of her experience that initially convinced her to continue for years in the occult was that the demons she was summoning would appear as clients' deceased loved ones. This gave a false confidence to those going to see her as well. "Sometimes, I would see them, she said. "I would see who I thought was their mum – 'Oh, mum's here. She's got red hair' ... And I could see the demon, because that's what it is, masquerading as mum."

Nizza eventually became a Christian and learned it's not possible to speak with the dead. Nizza said "My biggest warning would be ... when you do devilish things, you will get devilish outcomes. You will get devilish results," she said. "Satan masquerades as an angel of light, so what you think is fun, what you think is innocent is actually a tool of the devil, a game of the devil. It's not a game to mess with."

Source: Faithwire



# Sermon NOTES

Bible passage:

---

Date:

---



Something  
that shines  
from the  
passage

---

---

---



Anything  
hard to  
understand  
or any  
questions

---

---

---



Personal  
application  
for your life

---

---

---

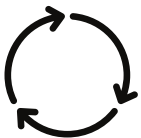


Theme of  
passage

---

---

---



How does it  
fit with other  
passages in  
the Bible

---

---

---



Who will you  
tell about  
what you have  
learnt?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Discussion QUESTIONS

- Why did the Israelites rebuild the altar before the temple, and what does that show about priorities in worship?
- How can our church honor both the excitement of a new direction for some and the grief of change for others?
- What is one small step you can take this week to worship God or help someone grow as a disciple?
- What fears or challenges make it hard for you to worship or follow Jesus today?
- How has God used a hard or dry season in your life to grow your faith?
- Why did some people shout for joy and others weep when the temple foundation was laid?
- Have you ever felt far from God, and what helped you return to him?
- When things change in church, do you usually feel hopeful, sad, or unsure, and why?
- How does knowing God is moving all of history toward Jesus being glorified help you trust him today?
- What does it mean to trust God even if our plans don't work out the way we expect?

# Helping HANDS

|                 | 2 November                               | 9 November                             | 16 November           |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Preacher        | Chris Pretorius                          | Chris Pretorius                        | KJ Tromp              |
| Elder on Duty   | Jacob                                    | Martin                                 | Peter W               |
| Prayer Leader   | Herman L                                 | Martin                                 | Janette               |
| Music Leader    | Nelleke                                  | Brendina                               | Neil                  |
| Children's Talk | Sarah                                    | Tash                                   | Inge                  |
| Bible Reader    | Conrad                                   | Karien                                 | Danika                |
| Sound           | Cassie                                   | Nic                                    | Nina                  |
| Visuals         | Isaac                                    | Ene                                    | Salme                 |
| Broadcasting    | James                                    | Pieter                                 | Christo               |
| Sunday School   | No Sunday School                         | Lize B, Izelle, Ilze                   | Lynette, Izelle, Ilze |
| Coffee          | Riaan & Lariza<br>Bergh, Joy van<br>Veen | Anke van<br>Pinxteren & Anne<br>Keegel | Du Toit Family        |

# Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



November:

1 - Armin van Wyk  
4 - Steve Miller  
7 - Mila van Wyk  
7 - Joseph Ting  
8 - James van Veen  
9 - Amanda Strydom  
11 - Cailynn van der Merwe  
14 - Izelle Steenkamp  
18 - Rob Miller  
28 - Martin Ting

## Who Should I Contact?

|                           |                       |              |                                                                      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor:                   | Chris Pretorius       | 0423 889 913 | <a href="mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au">pastor@wpcrc.org.au</a>         |
| Chairman of Session:      | Peter Williams        | 0431 500 006 | <a href="mailto:session@wpcrc.org.au">session@wpcrc.org.au</a>       |
| Community Engagement      | Jenna Miller          | 0403 650 398 | <a href="mailto:jenna@wpcrc.org.au">jenna@wpcrc.org.au</a>           |
| Church Administrator:     | Sarah Pretorius       | 0409 221 277 | <a href="mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au">admin@wpcrc.org.au</a>           |
| Deacons:                  |                       |              | <a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>       |
| Music Ministry:           | Mia Van Wyk           | 0420 817 800 |                                                                      |
| Sound & Visuals:          | Cassie Van Veen       | 0499 230 872 |                                                                      |
| Children's Talk:          | Sarah Pretorius       | 0409 221 277 |                                                                      |
| Sunday School:            | Sarah Pretorius       | 0409 221 277 |                                                                      |
| Youth Group:              | Kasha Schubert        | 0450 012 177 | <a href="mailto:youth@wpcrc.org.au">youth@wpcrc.org.au</a>           |
| Young Adults:             | Michael van der Merwe | 0456 960 424 |                                                                      |
| Growth Groups:            | Chris Pretorius       | 0423 889 913 |                                                                      |
| Prayer Chain:             | Herman Linde          | 0411 069 808 |                                                                      |
| Facilities & Maintenance: |                       |              | <a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>       |
| Newsletter:               | Leana van Gent        | 0452 334 224 | <a href="mailto:newsletter@wpcrc.org.au">newsletter@wpcrc.org.au</a> |